OSPREY MILITARY

MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES 146

NAPOLEON'S LIGHT INFANTRY

PHILIP HAYTHORNTHWAITE BRYAN FOSTEN

EDITOR: MARTIN WINDROW

OSPREY MILITARY

MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES 146

NAPOLEON'S LIGHT INFANTRY

Text by
PHILIP HAYTHORNTHWAITE
Colour plates by
BRYAN FOSTEN

First published in Great Britain in 1983 by
Osprey, a division of Reed Consumer Books Ltd.
Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road,
London SW3 6RB
and Auckland, Melbourne, Singapore and Toronto.

© Copyright 1983 Reed International Books Ltd.
Reprinted 1984, 1985 (twice), 1987, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1997

All rights reserved. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study, research, criticism or review, as permitted under the Copyright Designs and Patents Act, 1988, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, electrical, chemical, mechanical, optical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner. Enquiries should be addressed to the Publishers.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Haythornthwaite, Philip
Napoleon's Light infantry. (Men-at-Arms series; 146)
1. France. *Armée*—Equipment
2. Infantry Equipment—History—19th century
I. Title II. Series
356'.186'0943 UD335.F8

ISBN 0-85045-521-9

Filmset in Great Britain
Printed in Hong Kong

If you would like to receive more information about Osprey Military books, The Osprey Messenger is a regular newsletter which contains articles, new title information and special offers. To join please write to:

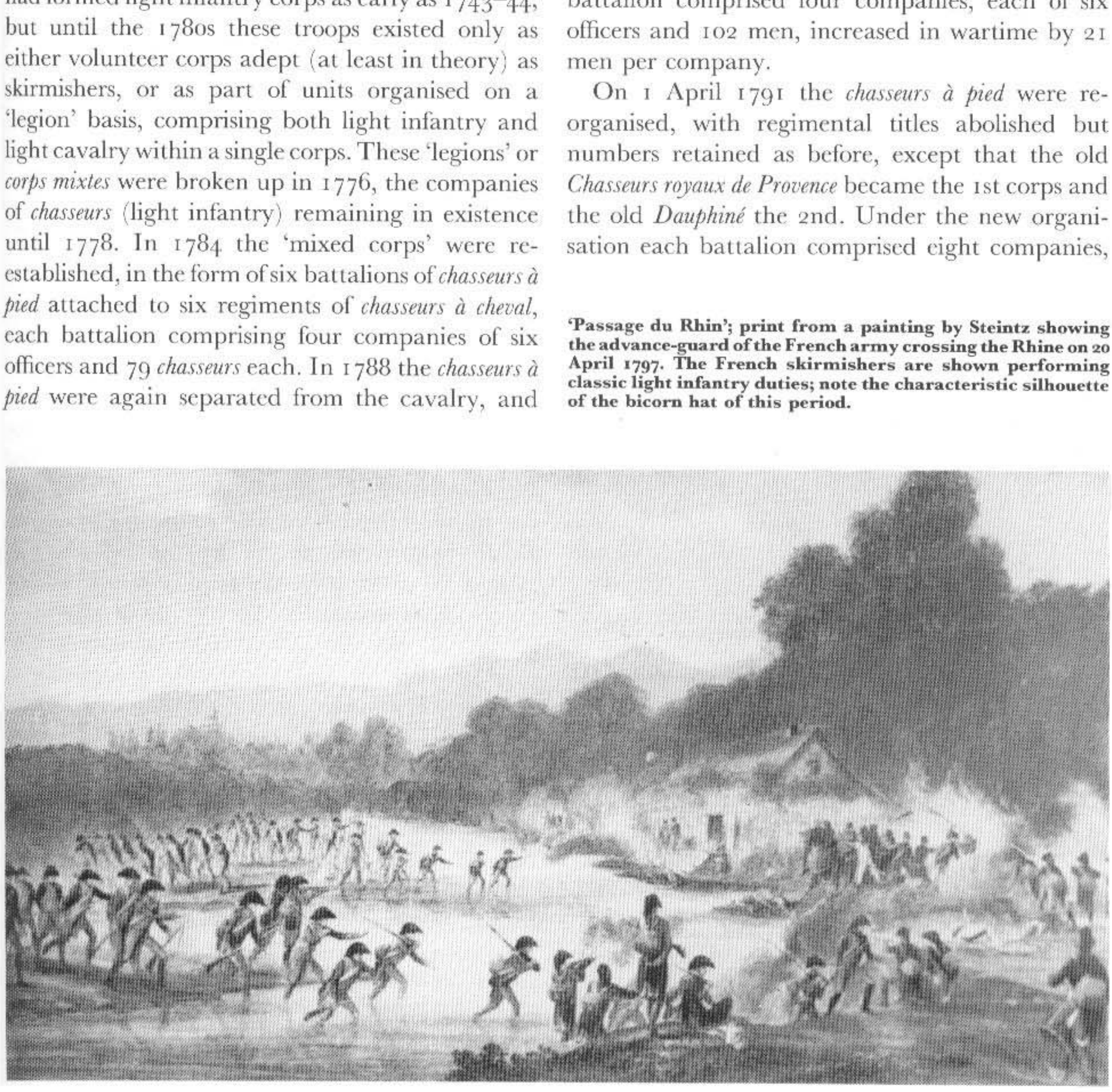
Osprey Military Messenger,
PO Box 443,
Peterborough PE2 6LA

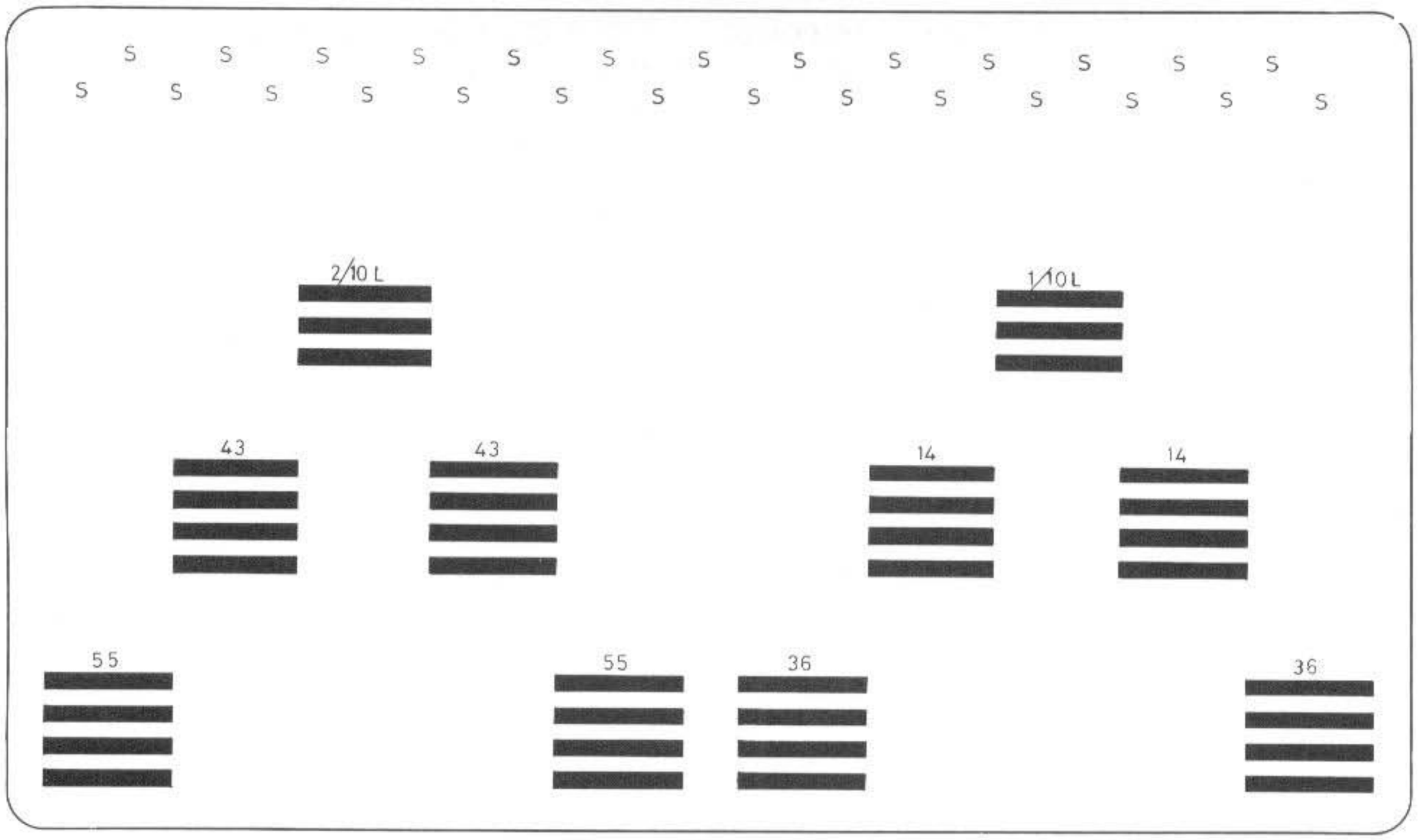
Organisation

In common with many 18th-century armies, France had formed light infantry corps as early as 1743–44; but until the 1780s these troops existed only as either volunteer corps adept (at least in theory) as skirmishers, or as part of units organised on a 'legion' basis, comprising both light infantry and light cavalry within a single corps. These 'legions' or *corps mixtes* were broken up in 1776, the companies of *chasseurs* (light infantry) remaining in existence until 1778. In 1784 the 'mixed corps' were re-established, in the form of six battalions of *chasseurs à pied* attached to six regiments of *chasseurs à cheval*, each battalion comprising four companies of six officers and 79 *chasseurs* each. In 1788 the *chasseurs à pied* were again separated from the cavalry, and increased to 12 battalions, named (in order from 1 to 12 respectively) *Chasseurs royaux du Dauphiné, royaux de Provence, royaux Corses, Corses, Cantabres, Bretons, d'Auvergne, des Vosges, des Cévennes, des Gevaudan, des Ardennes* and *du Roussillon*. Each battalion comprised four companies, each of six officers and 102 men, increased in wartime by 21 men per company.

On 1 April 1791 the *chasseurs à pied* were re-organised, with regimental titles abolished but numbers retained as before, except that the old *Chasseurs royaux de Provence* became the 1st corps and the old *Dauphiné* the 2nd. Under the new organisation each battalion comprised eight companies,

'Passage du Rhin'; print from a painting by Steintz showing the advance-guard of the French army crossing the Rhine on 20 April 1797. The French skirmishers are shown performing classic light infantry duties; note the characteristic silhouette of the bicorn hat of this period.





The classic light infantry function: deployment of St. Hilaire's Division of Soult's IV Corps at Austerlitz. The two brigades are in 'broad-arrow' array, each battalion in column of divisions, with 10th Léger as the vanguard. (Key): *Morand's Bde., St. Hilaire's Div.:* **1/10L, 2/10L = 1st & 2nd Bns., 10th Léger.** *Thiebault's Bde., St. Hilaire's Div.:* **14,36 = two Bns. each of 14th and 36th Ligne.** *Vare's Bde., Vandamme's Div.:* **43,55 = two Bns. each of 43rd and 55th Ligne. S-S-S = Forward companies of 10th Léger thrown forward as skirmishers.**

each of a captain, a lieutenant, a *sous-lieutenant* (second-lieutenant), a sergeant major, two sergeants, a *caporal-fourrier* (quartermaster corporal), four corporals, four *appointés* (junior NCOs), six carabiniers, 40 chasseurs and a drummer. Battalion staff consisted of two lieutenant-colonels, a *quartier-maître trésorier* (paymaster/quartermaster), an *adjutant-major*, an adjutant, a surgeon-major, a drum-major, a tailor, an armourer and a shoemaker. Throughout the period light infantry retained their own terminology, the terms *chasseur* and *carabinier* equating with those of fusilier and grenadier respectively in the Line, though their roles were identical.

In April 1792 each company was increased to a total of 130 men, including four sergeants, eight corporals, eight *appointés*, eight carabiniers and two drummers. In the field it was usual to unite the carabiniers into a special company, usually ranking as the battalion's first. At this time also the number of battalions was increased to 14 by the incorporation in the regular army of personnel from the old Paris National Guard. There were, in addition, corps of provincial light infantry, some of which were amalgamated with the 14 existing battalions in February 1793 when the *Amalgame* system was instigated, by which (under normal circumstances) each regular battalion was combined with two volunteer or conscript battalions to form a Demi-Brigade, the term 'regiment' being eschewed for political reasons. By January 1794 a total of 22 Demi-Brigades Légère existed, each of three battalions, each battalion comprising a company of *carabiniers* and eight of *chasseurs*. Two additional Demi-Brigades were formed in October 1798, and by September 1799 the number had risen to 26, each Demi-Brigade now of four battalions. In August 1800 there were 30 Demi-Brigades of three battalions each, but those numbered 3, 5, 8, 16, 18, 20, 25, 26, 28 and 29 reduced to two battalions each. In August 1801 there were 31, and in September 1803 (as for the Line infantry) the title 'regiment' was restored in place of 'Demi-Brigade', the full appellation '—Régiment d'Infanterie Légère' usually being contracted to '—Léger'.

In March 1804 a company of *voltigeurs* (skir-

fusiliers) was added to each battalion, comprising three officers and 120 men per company, with two buglers (*cornets*) equipped with hunting-horns replacing the drummers of the *chasseur* and *carabinier* companies. Thereafter, changes in regimental organisation followed those of the Line infantry. The nine-company establishment was replaced finally by a decree of 18 February 1808 which regulated regimental establishment to four *bataillons de guerre* (which number rose to seven in some cases) and a depôt battalion, the latter comprising four companies commanded by one of the company-captains, with a major in command of the depôt itself, assisted by an adjutant and two sergeant-majors. Each of the *bataillons de guerre* was composed of six companies, one of *carabiniers*, one of *voltigeurs* and four of *chasseurs*; each company comprised a captain, a lieutenant, a *sous-lieutenant*, a sergeant-major, four sergeants, a *caporal-fourrier*, eight corporals, two drummers and 121 *chasseurs*, *carabiniers* or *voltigeurs*. Regimental staff consisted of a colonel, a major, four *chefs de bataillon* (battalion commanders), five adjutants, a *quartier-maître trésorier*, an *officier payeur* (paymaster), an 'Eagle'-bearer and two escorts, a surgeon-major and four assistants, five assistant adjutants, ten sergeant-majors, a drum-major, a *caporal-tambour* (drum-corporal), a bandmaster, seven musicians and four craftsmen. Each battalion had four *sapeurs* (pioneers) as part of the *carabinier* company, with a corporal in command of the *sapeurs* of the regiment.

Light Infantry Tactics

Although light infantry tactics formed one of the cornerstones of Napoleonic warfare, their employment was by no means restricted to Light regiments but could be adopted by virtually any formation; thus, from the early 1800s if not before, the distinction between Light and Line infantry was largely one of costume and tradition.

The French 1791 Manual specified that actions were to be fought by a combination of line and column, the line for fire-fight and the final stages of assault, with column reserved for the approach and for charges against defended positions. These tactics were only effective with troops sufficiently trained to be capable of deploying when required. With the rapid growth of the French armies by the incorporation of untrained volunteers and conscripts by 1793, ordered manoeuvre had disappeared, with formations relying to some extent upon a wild rush inspired by revolutionary fervour, a 'hellish tactic' described by a French Royalist as 'fifty thousand savage beasts foaming at the mouth like cannibals, hurl[ing] themselves at top speed'. The organisation of the Demi-Brigades, combining the steadiness and disciplined firepower of the centre (trained) battalion in line with the charges of the volunteers in column on either flank, presaged the classic French tactic of *l'ordre mixte* which operated at all levels from battalion to division.

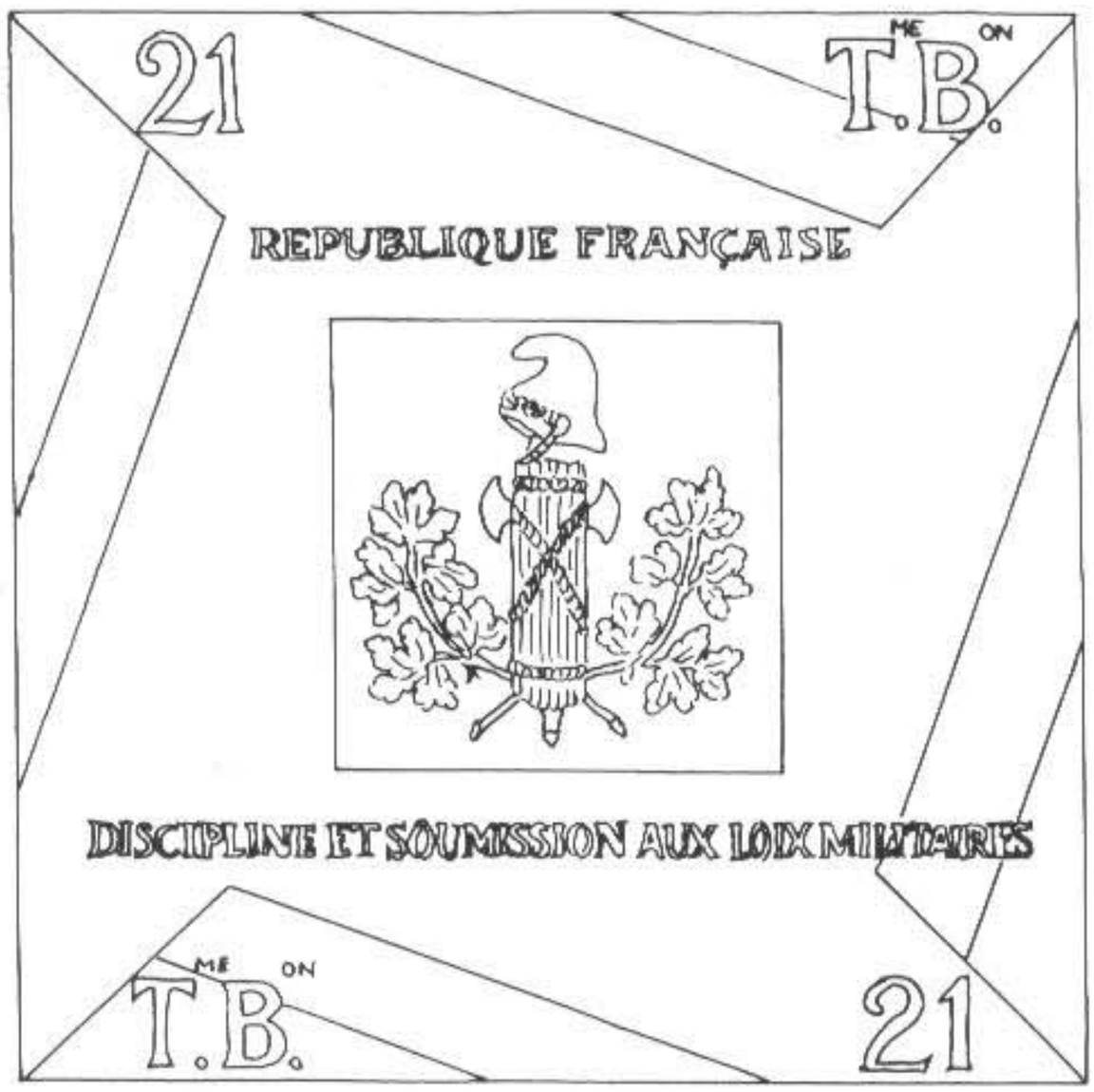
But firepower and impetus alone were not sufficient, and indeed in 1793–94 were not typical of the tactics of most French forces, which relied to a great extent upon advance in open order, *en débandade*, in which whole brigades were deployed in skirmish formation, harassing the enemy with musketry, and then often concentrating into some kind of order to rush their target. Such advances in

Colour, 1st Bn., Régiment de l'Aveyron, 1793–94 (incorporated into 16th Demi-Brigade Légère, 1794). Tricolour with white horizontal bar bearing gold letters; reverse side bore '*1er Bataillon Daveron République Français*'.

Light infantry in Egypt, 1798, before the adoption of the single-breasted jacket and *casquette à pouf*.

open formation negated to some extent the ordered volley- and artillery-fire of their opponents and led some observers to believe that it was the major French tactic, and General Duhesme remarked that 'one can truthfully say that by the end of 1793 the French armies had only light infantry'. By the mid-1790s, however, French tactics had progressed a stage further, so that attacks were made by a combination of line, column and skirmishers which together marked the decisive modernisation of 18th-century tactics; this had, in some aspects, been the intention of the 1791 Manual. By about 1795 it was usual to detach as much as one-fifth of a division's strength to act as *tirailleurs* (skirmishers) to harass the enemy with musketry, and to hold back the remainder to reinforce the skirmish-line if necessary or, if the combination of skirmish-fire and artillery bombardment had shaken the enemy, to deliver a mass charge by passing through the cloud of skirmishers and hurling itself upon the wavering enemy. Although the opponents of the French also possessed light troops, sometimes in considerable quantities, the vital difference between the two systems was that their opponents continued to regard close-order alignment as the principal formation for infantry, and light infantry as mere auxiliaries.

With such numbers of skirmishers required, it was obvious that there were insufficient French Light regiments to fulfil the tasks required of them; thus it was usual for whole regiments of Line infantry to be deployed as skirmishers, while the Light infantry *per se* acquired the steadiness and discipline normally associated with the Line. This similarity was enforced by the composition of Light regiments, as mentioned above. The battalion élite companies equated exactly with those of the Line, the *voltigeurs* theoretically being the smallest and most agile men and the *carabiniers* being the largest and most steadfast. The establishment of *voltigeur* companies (some regiments had possessed sharp-shooter or 'scout' companies before 1804) was intended to provide each battalion with its own



Colour of the 21st Demi-Brigade Légère, 3rd Bn., 1797 pattern, captured by the Minorca Regt. in Egypt. Blue flag with white centre bearing fasces and leaves in proper colours, with red Phrygian cap; red triangles along the edges with white quadrilaterals between them and the blue. Gold lettering, the 'T^{me}B^{on}' signifying 'Troisième Bataillon'. The reverse bore a gold horn within a green wreath on the white central square, and battlehonours '*Passage de la Piave*|*Passage du Tagliamentao*|*Prise de Gratz*'.

skirmish-screen to precede an advance or cover a withdrawal; but again, this was often a matter of theory, as on occasion whole battalions could be used as skirmishers to precede a brigade or divisional advance, in support of (or even in place of) the *voltigeurs* of each battalion.

Despite the diminishing difference between Light and Line regiments, a convention persisted whereby Light regiments were scattered throughout the various Corps of an army, as if they were the only ones capable of performing duty as skirmishers. A typical example is provided by the 'Order of Battle' of the French forces at Austerlitz, at which period some slight difference between Light and Line was still apparent:

I Corps: two Divisions of five line regiments, with the 27th Léger acting as an 'advance guard'.

III Corps: one infantry Division (2nd) composed of three brigades:

1st Brigade: 108th Line and *voltigeur* company of 15th Léger.

2nd Brigade: 33rd Line and remainder of 15th Léger.

3rd Brigade: 48th and 111th Line.

IV Corps: 1st Division: 10th Léger, 14th and 36th Line.

2nd Division: 24th Léger and five Line regiments.

3rd Division: 26th Léger, *Tirailleurs du Po* and *Tirailleurs Corses* (both light infantry), three Line regiments.

V Corps: Caffarelli's Division: 13th Léger and four Line regiments.

Suchet's Division: 17th Léger and four Line regiments.

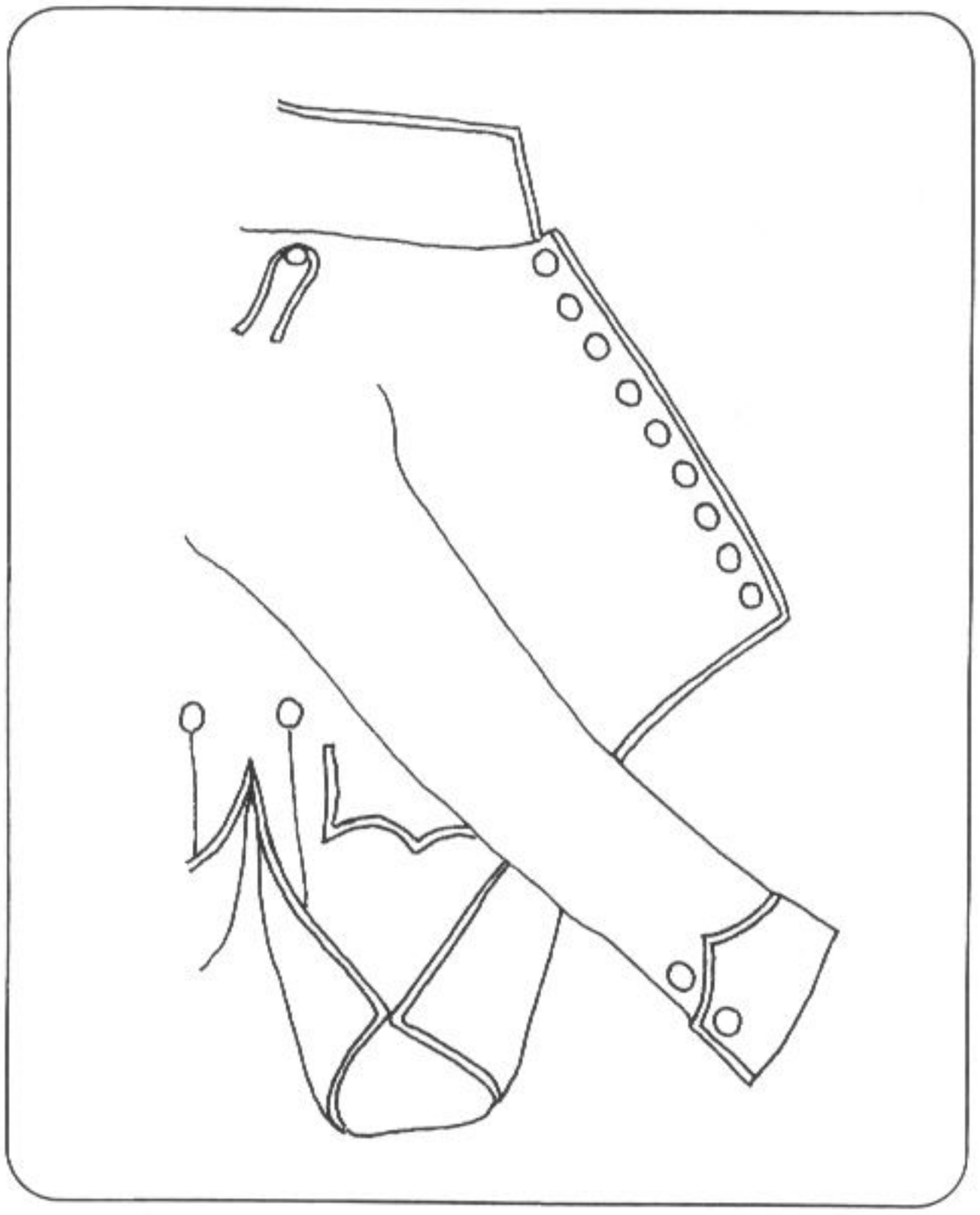
Oudinot's Division: detached élite companies of 2nd, 3rd, 12th, 15th, 28th and 31st Léger, and 9th, 13th, 58th and 81st Line.

From the above it will be seen that the French Light regiments were often supported by specialist light corps such as the *Tirailleurs Corses*, *Tirailleurs du Po* and similar units, such as the *Chasseurs des Montagnes* as used in the Peninsular War, these corps sometimes not being as capable of serving as Line infantry as the *bona fide* French Light regiments; the light troops of allied nations, similarly, were not as tactically synonymous with their own Line infantry. The presence of Oudinot's Division in the Austerlitz 'order of battle' illustrates the practice of forming élite units by combining the grenadiers/*carabiniers* and *voltigeurs* from a number of battalions into one formation.

One marked difference from the Line infantry, however, was in the superior *ésprit de corps* of the Light regiments, which ranked as senior to the Line and regarded themselves as such, an attitude of superiority reinforced by their different (and often more impressive) uniform, the theoretical difference in role, and supposed superior training. This superiority of *ésprit de corps* led to many units adopting the equipment and *élan* of the light cavalry, their equivalents in the mounted branch of the French army.

Têtes de Colonne

The composition and equipment of the Têtes de Colonne (literally, 'heads of column': the band, *sapeurs*, 'Eagles' and their escorts) conformed to the details given in the companion title, MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*. The official establishment of



Pattern of jacket of the coloured 'Egyptian' uniform of the 'Kléber Ordinance', with the pointed cuffs generally restricted to Light units.

Light infantry, c.1800; print by Bartsch, after Kobell. The shakos have *mirliton*-style 'wings' wrapped around.

a regiment's musicians is exemplified by the 15th Léger in 1809: 58 drummers (40 *chasseurs*, 12 carabiniers, 6 *voltigeurs*), 6 *voltigeur cornets*, a drum-major, a *tambour-maître*, seven musicians and a *chef de musique* (for three battalions). In the 'prestige' Light regiments, however, it was usual to lavish large sums upon the regimental band; the official strength of a bandmaster and seven musicians was often exceeded, band strengths sometimes being as high as 30. The cost of maintaining so large a band (with additional musicians hired professionally, normally on annual contracts quite separate from regimental 'establishment') and clothing them in the exotic fashion exemplified by Plate E, sometimes took regimental funds to the verge of bankruptcy. In November 1807 Berthier was forced to issue an order forbidding the cost of a band to exceed one day's pay per officer per month.

Uniforms

The 1791 uniform

The 12 light infantry battalions established in March 1788 wore a uniform based upon that of 1786, with a dark green coat of infantry style, without pockets and with a yellow (*jonquille*) facing colour in place of the varied facings of the 1786 uniform. In November 1789 white breeches and waistcoat were specified in place of the earlier green or buff, and on 1 April 1791 new regulations were introduced which described the light infantry uniform at the outset of the Revolutionary Wars.

The coat (*habit*) was dark green, cut in the infantry style with horizontal pockets and white metal buttons bearing the battalion number within the loop of a hunting horn. Lapels were green, piped in the facing colour; collar, cuffs and cuff flaps were either of the facing colour or green, as in Table A (including the 13th and 14th Battalions formed in 1792).

Shoulder decorations were like those of the Line infantry: red, fringed epaulettes for *carabiniers*, and for *chasseurs* shoulder straps of the coat-colour, piped with the facing colour. The waistcoat was plain white. Three styles of headdress were worn; for the *chasseurs* the fur-crested 'Tarleton' helmet was specified, with its tricolour cockade adopted on 27

Table A (1791)

(a)	*(b)*	*(c)*	*(d)*	*(e)*	*Collar*	*Cuffs*	*Cuff flaps*
1	4	7	10	13	x	x	x
2	5	8	11	14		x	
3	6	9	12		x		x

Colours: *(a)* scarlet, *(b)* *jonquille*, *(c)* pink, *(d)* crimson, *(e)* white. 'x' indicates items of the facing colour.

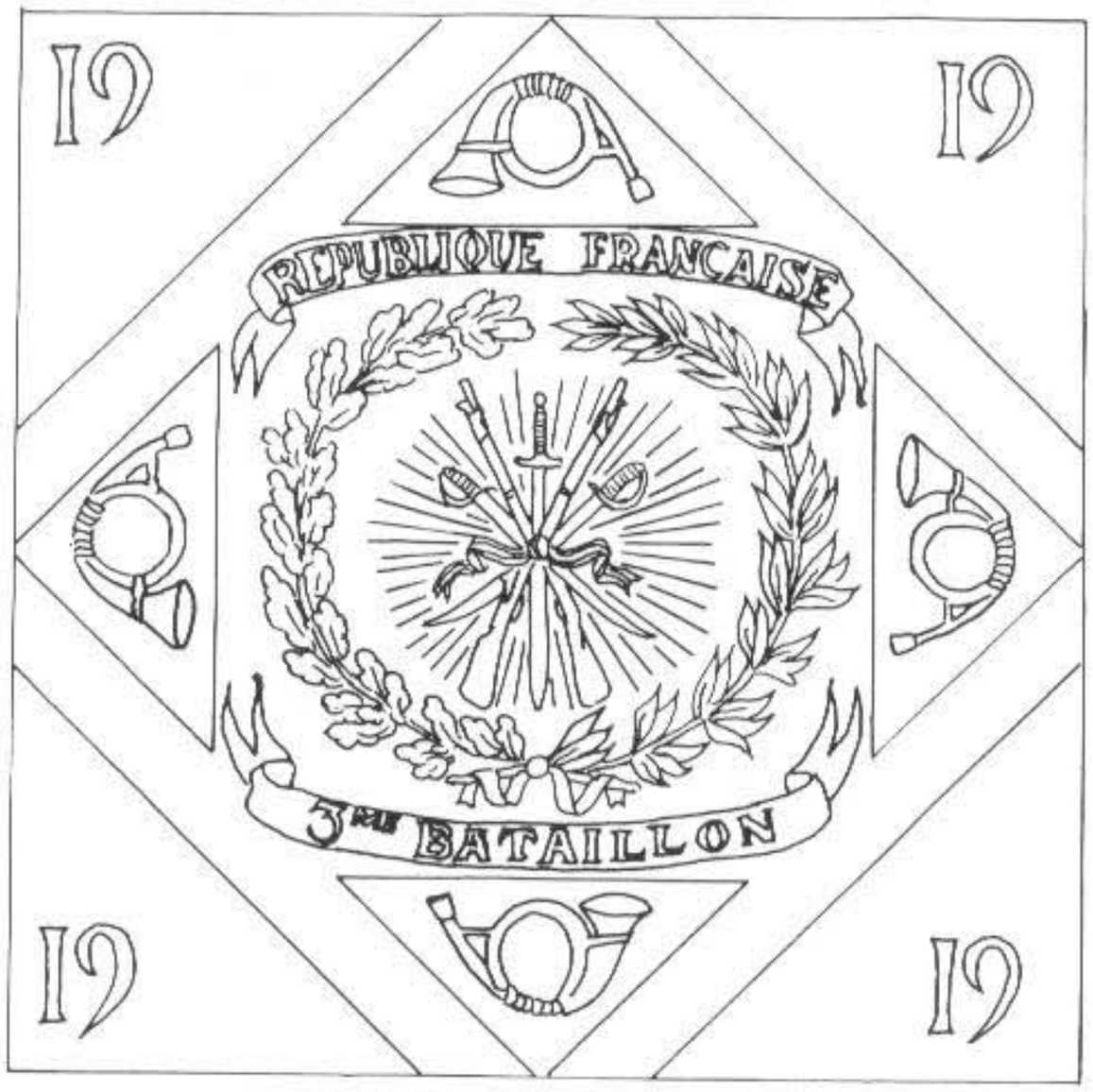
May 1790, and an imitation fur band, as for the Line infantry; but again as for the Line, its issue was probably not universal. It was shabby and unpopular, its 'fur' crest sometimes no more than a fabric 'sausage' stuffed with straw; the skull and peak were black leather, with metal reinforcing bands running up the sides of the skull. As for the Line, plumes were white with a facing-coloured tip for full dress, replaced by similarly coloured pompons for ordinary wear. As an alternative to the crested helmet the bicorn could be worn, as by the Line infantry, and was popular with other ranks as well as officers; while *carabiniers* could wear a fur cap not unlike that of the grenadiers of the Line, but not so high (29.8cm as against 35.2cm for the Line) and without a frontal plate, a distinction which persisted throughout the Napoleonic period. As specified by the 1786 regulations, light infantry were distinguished by their legwear: instead of the ordinary breeches and long gaiters of the Line, the Light wore short gaiters extending only half-way up the calf, usually with the upper edge cut to resemble a 'Hessian' or hussar boot, frequently decorated with coloured lace and a tassel on the upper edge. Drummers by the 1791 regulations wore blue coats (which had been specified with the usual facing colours in 1788), decorated with lace of the 'Royal' crimson and white chain pattern.

From 15 January 1792 officers of all light battalions were permitted to carry sabres (as used already by battalions 6 to 11 inclusive), and on the same date their greatcoat was regulated to resemble that adopted at the same time by the Line, but of dark green instead of the Line's sky-blue, with a facing-coloured collar. An example of the 1791 uniform is illustrated in Plate A, a version worn by the *Légion des Allobroges*, one of the corps which existed outside the numbered sequence of regular regiments and which was organised in the style of the pre-1788 light units as a mixed corps of light infantry and dragoons.

The 1793 uniform

The creation of the Demi-Brigades in February 1793 was accompanied in the Line infantry by the establishment of a new blue uniform, based upon that of the old National Guard, volunteer and conscript units, and replacing the traditional white uniform of the old Royal army (though due to shortages of *matériel* and affection for the traditional colour, the white took some years to disappear). Similarly, the blue uniform was introduced for the Light infantry in place of the previous green, but the distinctive features which remained the preserve of the Light regiments throughout the period were retained. Due to their élite status and consequently higher *ésprit de corps*, it was more usual than in the Line for regiments to adopt non-regulation items; thus the 'regulation' details which follow were not universal for all regiments. Uniforms were further influenced by those factors affecting all French uniforms: shortages of equipment and clothing leading to the adoption of whatever was available and degeneration into a more or less vagabond appearance in the mid- to late-1790s. The variations on 'regulation' dress were sometimes occasioned by the necessity of having replacement uniforms manufactured on active service, sometimes from local cloth, when it was not possible to follow the regulations exactly. The lists of regimental details which follow demonstrate how these factors created many quite individual costumes.

The *habit* of 1793 was similar to that of the Line,



Colour of the 19th Demi-Brigade Légère, 1802–03; white ground with red corner triangles bearing gold '19', gold horns on blue internal triangles. Centre bears a trophy of arms in proper colours backed by a gold 'sunburst', within a green wreath; white scrolls with gold lettering. Instead of the trophy of arms the reverse bore a gold inscription, *'Le Premier Consul|a la 19me Demi-Brigade Légère|le 25 Messidor|An 10'*.

but with a distinctive cut, including lapels with the lower edges shaped to a point, and almost invariably lacking the buttons and dummy button holes present below the lapels of the line *habit*; these pointed-ended lapels were perhaps the most distinctive light infantry feature throughout the Napoleonic period. The *habit* was dark blue with dark blue lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, all piped white; the collar and rectangular cuff flaps were scarlet, piped blue (or white), the flags bearing three (or occasionally four) buttons. Other patterns of cuff were common, either the flapless variety with vertical piping as borne on many infantry coats, or pointed cuffs adumbrating the 1812 regulations. Turnback badges were in the form of white hunting horns, or red grenades for *carabiniers*; buttons were brass and pockets vertical, edged with white piping, with the style known as *à la Soubise* used on occasion.

Among many variations in common use were green epaulettes with or without red 'crescents' worn by *chasseurs* instead of infantry-style shoulder straps; *carabiniers* retained their red epaulettes. Waistcoats were blue, often with white piping (including edging to the pockets), and legwear was styled as before: dark blue breeches with short gaiters usually cut to resemble hussar boots. Officers' distinctions were like those of the Line (see below), but they usually wore hussar boots (*bottes à la hongroise*) matching the gaiters of the other ranks. Headdress was varied, the crested helmet being replaced by the bicorn (but perhaps persisting in use for some time), which resembled that worn by the Line, including the use of drooping horsehair plumes; but other styles included early shakos or *mirlitons*, and even busbies styled on those of the light cavalry with whom the light infantry retained great affinity; examples of these variations are noted below.

In July 1799 a specification noted the use by light infantry of the *habit-veste*, a short-tailed jacket considered by several European armies as being more suitable for the skirmishing and rapid movement in open order expected of light troops, without the cumbersome long tails of the infantry *habit*. The short-tailed *habit-veste* was in common use by the Light units from this time, though officers usually (but not invariably) retained the long tails of the earlier *habit*.

The 'Egyptian' uniform

The Demi-Brigades Légères which accompanied Napoleon's Oriental expedition changed their uniform at the same time as the Line infantry (see MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*), adopting the peaked leather cap (*casquette à pouf*) with a folding neck flap and pompon or tuft (*pouf*) on top, as introduced in the autumn of 1798, with a single-breasted short-tailed jacket and loose trousers. Unlike those of the Line, which had red collar and cuffs and white turnbacks, these jackets for the Light infantry were blue throughout, with cuffs cut to a point instead of the round-topped cuffs of the Line (except the 88th Demi-Brigade, which had pointed cuffs). *Carabiniers* wore red epaulettes, blue shoulder straps being prescribed for *chasseurs*, though many probably retained their green epaulettes; the buttons were often made of wood and covered with cloth, metal buttons being in short supply. With the introduction of the so-called 'Kléber Ordinance' in the autumn of 1799 (which ordered the regiments in Egypt to wear multi-coloured clothing as a way of overcoming shortages by making up whatever cloth was available), the

Table B ('Egyptian')

Demi-Brigade	*Coat*	*Collar/piping*	*Cuffs*	*Turnbacks*	*Piping*	*'Pouf'*
2nd	light green	dark blue/white	dark blue	dark blue	white	green
4th	light green	crimson/white	crimson	crimson	white	white/green
21st	sky-blue	yellow/white	yellow	yellow (or red)	white	yellow/green
22nd	sky-blue	crimson/white	crimson	crimson	white	red/green

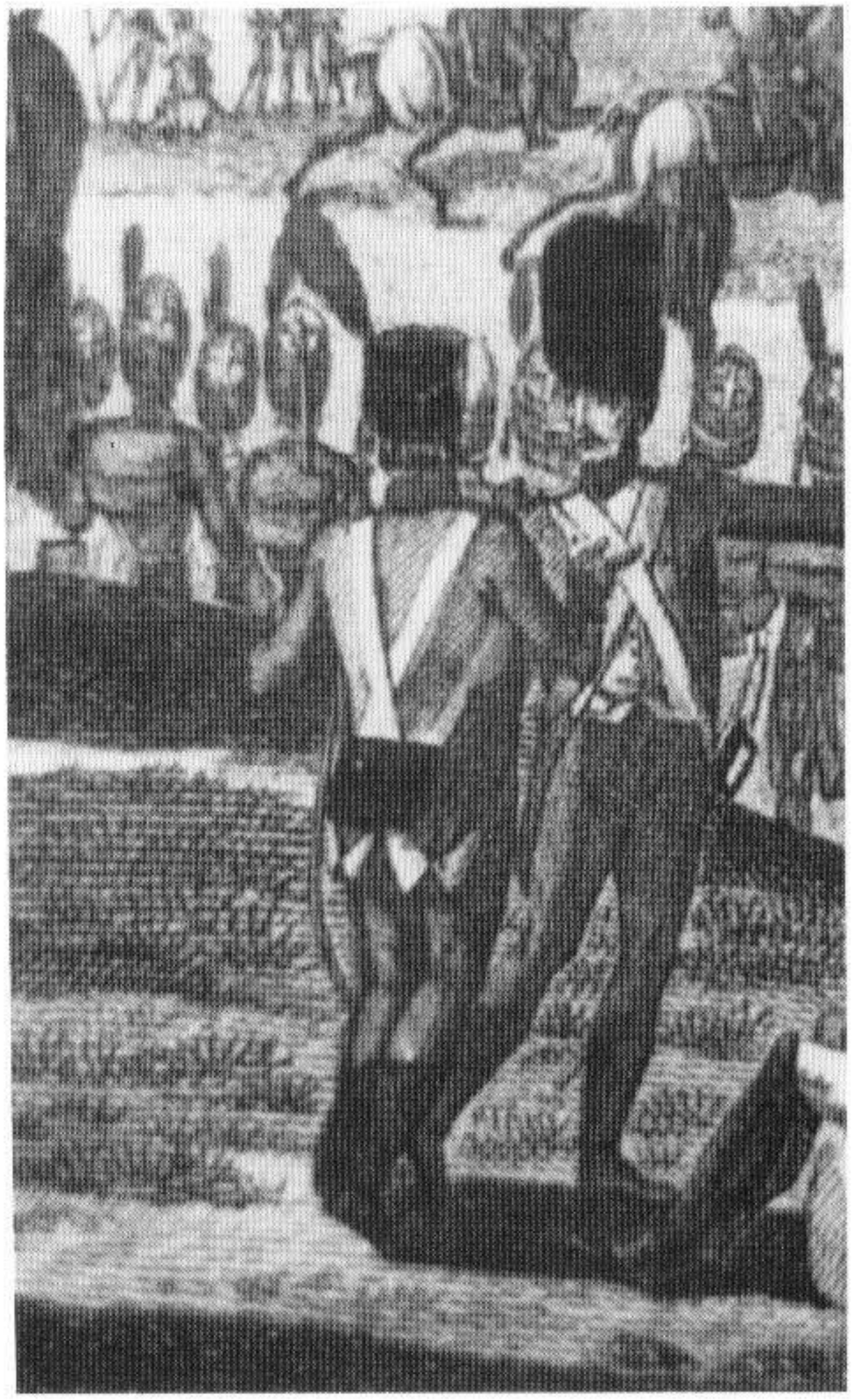
light infantry Demi-Brigades concerned adopted the colour schemes shown in Table B.

A recorded alternative of the 4th, of brown collar, cuffs and turnbacks, may represent crimson, faded by the sun; the 21st's yellow facings were not universal due to shortage of suitable cloth, *aurore* (pinkish-orange) and later pink being substituted. During this campaign the ranks of the 21st were filled with Negro slaves, *bought* by Kléber from Abyssinian slave-dealers!

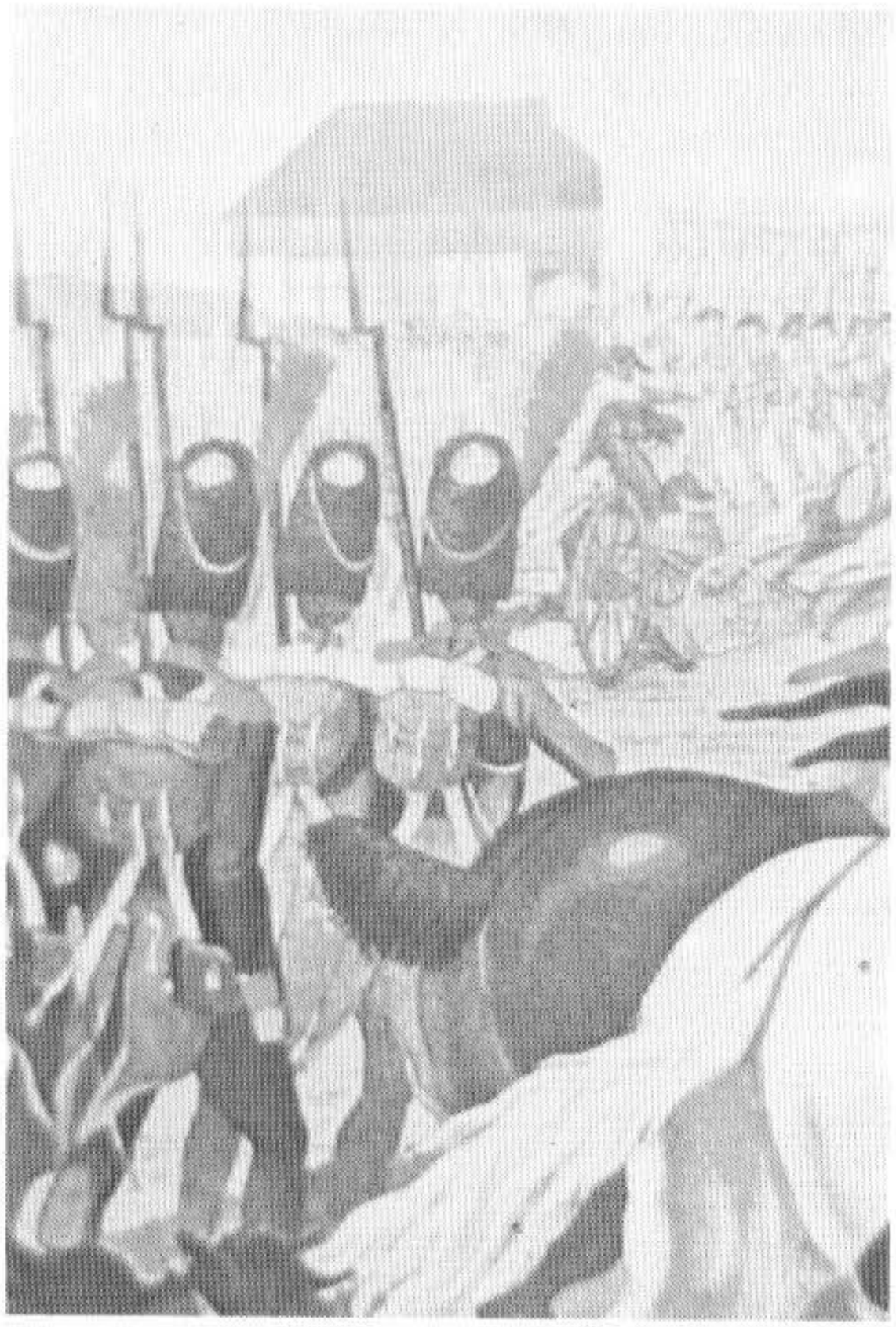
The pre-1812 uniform

The light infantry uniform worn before the 1812 clothing regulations came into effect was a gradual evolution from the 1793 uniform. The *habit-veste* remained largely unchanged in basic cut (excepting the cuffs, which varied), though it appears that in some cases the tails of the short coatee were extended to mid-thigh about 1809–10, at least for some regiments (e.g. the 2nd, 12th and 16th Léger), and from c.1809 the turnbacks were extended to the bottom edge of the skirts. Officers in most cases retained the long-tailed *habit*, with pockets *à la Soubise* normally confined to officers and some NCOs and all apparently unofficial, there being no reference to such a style in regulations. The coatee remained dark blue, with scarlet collar and cuff flaps; pointed cuffs, as worn by some regiments, were either blue or scarlet. Piping was white, with turnback badges in the form of white or red hunting horns (red grenades for *carabiniers*). Buttons were white metal, bearing a hunting horn and regimental number, though at the beginning of the Empire period some regiments (the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 28th at least) had brass buttons and accoutrements (as specified in 1793 and probably retained). *Chasseurs* should have worn blue shoulder straps piped white, but, as before, frequently used green epaulettes with or without red 'crescents'; *carabiniers* retained their red epaulettes.

The dark blue waistcoat (often double-breasted at this period) had white piping in some cases



Light infantry, c.1803; engraving by J. Couché after J. F. Swebach, showing a side-plumed shako and a *carabinier*-cap with drooping horsehair plume.



Carabiniers **c.1805; detail from a print of the Battle of Elchingen by Voltz. A rare back view of the** *carabinier* **uniform, which includes long-tailed coats and caps which have the rear patches quartered, the upper quarters red and the lower blue. Plumes and cords are red.**

(though white waistcoats were not uncommon in summer); and the earlier style of legwear persisted—usually blue breeches and short black gaiters cut to resemble hussar boots, often with lace edging at the top and a small tassel, red for *carabiniers* and a mixture of red, white and/or green for *chasseurs*. Some regiments used white linen gaiters in summer, and on campaign loose trousers were common, either dark blue (for winter) or white, buff or light grey-ochre (for summer), worn over the gaiters. As in the Line, all manner of modifications were employed on campaign, out of necessity or utility, including the use of clothing made locally, such as the ubiquitous brown trousers worn in Spain, made from the undyed wool of the local sheep.

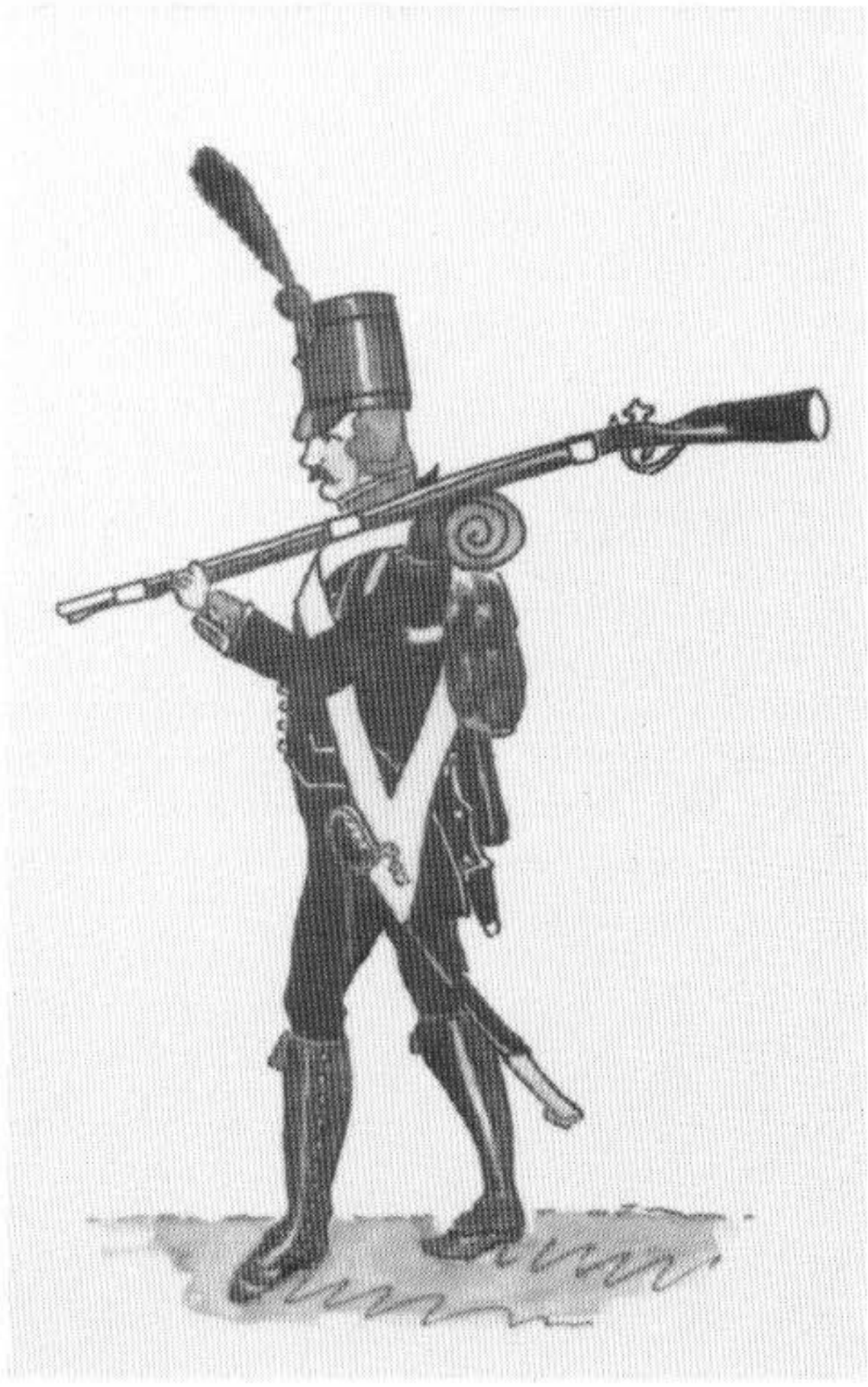
On 26 October 1801 the first shako was authorised for use by light infantry. Examples of similar headdress had appeared before that date, usually imitating light cavalry style and probably originating with the *mirliton* cap with a cloth 'wing' which could be wrapped around the body of the headdress, with a peak added to turn it into an early shako. The 1801 shako resembled the *mirliton* closely, excepting the absence of a 'wing'; it widened only slightly towards the top, but had a detachable peak set not on the very lower edge but a short way up the body of the cap, fastened by hooks and eyes. Officially the shako was quite squat (17.8cm high) but contemporary pictures suggest that taller versions existed. The cap was constructed of black felt with leather upper and lower bands and peak, though examples are known made of leather throughout, as in the 1st Léger. It was ornamented with a brass badge of hunting-horn shape on the front, though contemporary illustrations suggest that this was frequently omitted. The tricolour cockade was carried at the left hand side of the cap, secured by a loop of yellow (or orange) lace with two buttons. Green cords with pendent 'raquettes' were suspended around the cap, and a plume was worn at the left side; sometimes this was of the upright cut-feather variety, but more often of the drooping kind, coloured dark green for *chasseurs* and scarlet for *carabiniers*. *Carabinier* shakos were sometimes ornamented with scarlet upper and lower bands and either scarlet or white cords; a recorded *carabinier* shako plate is in the form of a hunting horn surmounted by a grenade. For parade and combat *carabiniers* could wear the fur cap as described previously, without a plate and with red plume and red or white cords, and a rear patch like that of the Line grenadier cap, officially quartered red and blue and bearing a white lace cross, but other varieties existed. Fur caps were normally given to any regiment which requested them from Napoleon (as 1st Consul and Emperor); for example, the 2nd, 4th and 21st Léger received theirs under the Consulate, the 27th Léger in December 1804 and the 5th Léger in February 1806. Shakos are sometimes depicted with both plume and cockade fixed at the front instead of at the side; as the peak was detachable and plates frequently absent, with a minimum of adaption the cap could be turned around and the peak affixed wherever desired, by those regiments wishing for a degree of individuality

in their dress, thus displaying plume and cockade at the front.

The establishment of *voltigeur* companies in 1804 introduced new uniform distinctions in the form of a *chamois* collar (piped red or white), and occasionally other alterations to the facings such as yellow or *chamois* cuff flaps or pointed cuffs. Their epaulettes were combinations of yellow, green and/or red, with gaiter tassels in the same colours; yellow hunting horns were borne on the turnbacks, and their shakos (sometimes with yellow bands) had white, yellow or green cords and plumes in combinations of yellow and red or yellow and green. Some *voltigeur* companies emulated the light cavalry to such an extent that they adopted the busby, usually with a yellow bag; much rarer were busbies worn by *carabiniers*, with red bags and plumes. Red piping was used by some élite companies.

Officers' uniforms were similar to those of other ranks, but with long coat-tails; short-tailed jackets were not unknown but may have been restricted largely to *voltigeurs*. Officers' buttons and turnback badges were silver, and their silver lace epaulettes like those of the Line, as specified in the 1786 regulations: colonel—bullion fringes on both shoulders; major (rank created in 1803)—as colonel but gold lace straps; *chef de bataillon*—as colonel but fringe on left shoulder only; captain—silver lace fringe on left shoulder only; *capitaine adjutant-major*—lace fringe on right shoulder only; lieutenant—as captain but with a red stripe on the strap; *sous-*

Light infantry embarking on campaign: German print of c.1806, showing shakos with plume and cockade on opposite sides.



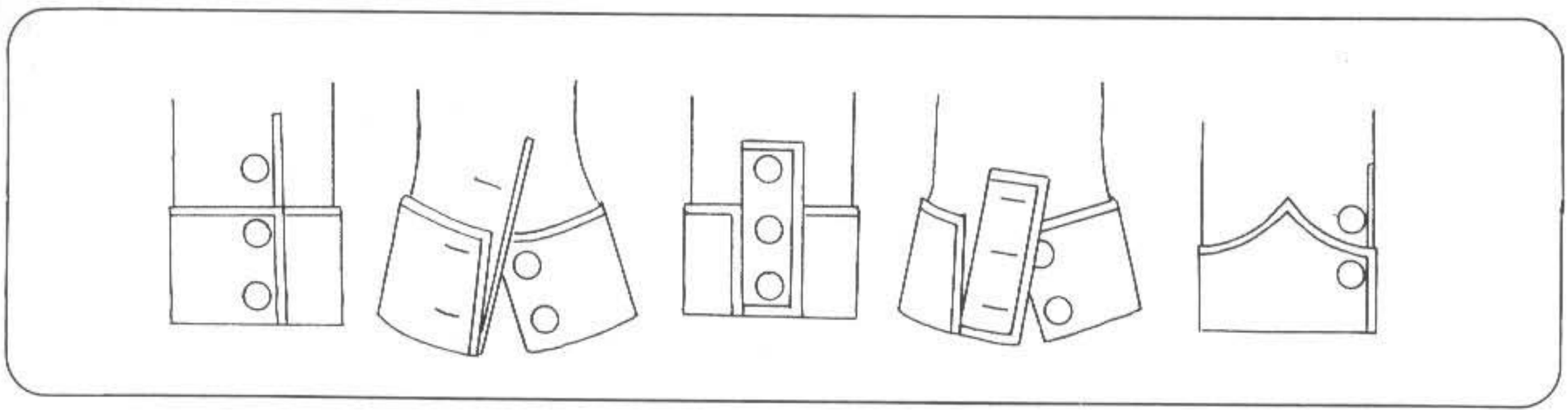
Facsimile of a Zimmermann illustration of a *chasseur* of the 16th Léger, c.1806–07. Note the old-style flapless red cuff; green plume, sword knot and gaiter lace; green epaulettes with red 'crescents'; and unpowdered queue.

lieutenant—two red stripes; *adjutant-sous-officier*—red straps with two silver stripes, and mixed red and silver fringe on left shoulder only; a popular fashion was to have the red stripes on the straps in the form of diamonds. The gorget existed in both gilt and silver, with devices usually of contrasting metal depicting the regimental number, eagle and/or hunting horn, with grenade or grenade and horn for *carabiniers*. Officers' headdress was usually like that of the other ranks, but with silver plates, cords and lace, their upper shako-band ultimately in the form of silver laurel leaves or interlocking rings embroidered on black velvet backing. Officers' cockades and plumes were frequently worn at the front of the shako; busbies and *carabinier* caps were ornamented with silver. In place of the shako it was common for the bicorn to be worn, sometimes with silver lace edging but often with only a silver cockade loop and tassels. Breeches were dark blue, occasionally laced with silver, and boots usually of hussar pattern with silver edging and tassels, though mounted officers wore riding boots. On campaign officers often wore the single-breasted dark blue *surtout* with a bicorn hat, and frequently overalls of light cavalry style. Similarly, sword belts were often of light cavalry pattern; instead of the regulation white leather shoulder belt, waist belts were popular, sometimes passing behind the flap of the breeches but alternatively displaying an S-clasp or rectangular plate, usually silver, and sometimes bearing gilt hunting horns or other devices. Waist belts existed in white or black leather, though green with silver lace or wire edging was equally popular. From the waist belt the sword could be suspended either from a frog or from cavalry-style slings, the latter most common when the sabre was carried.

NCOs wore the same system of ranking as for the Line, though corporals' rank bars were usually of white lace, and long-service chevrons of red. Sergeants and above had rank bars of silver lace upon red backing, silver trimming to the turnback badges and epaulette straps, and silver lace intermixed in epaulette fringes, shako cords and sword knots; and occasionally badges on the epaulette strap, such as silver grenades for *carabiniers*.

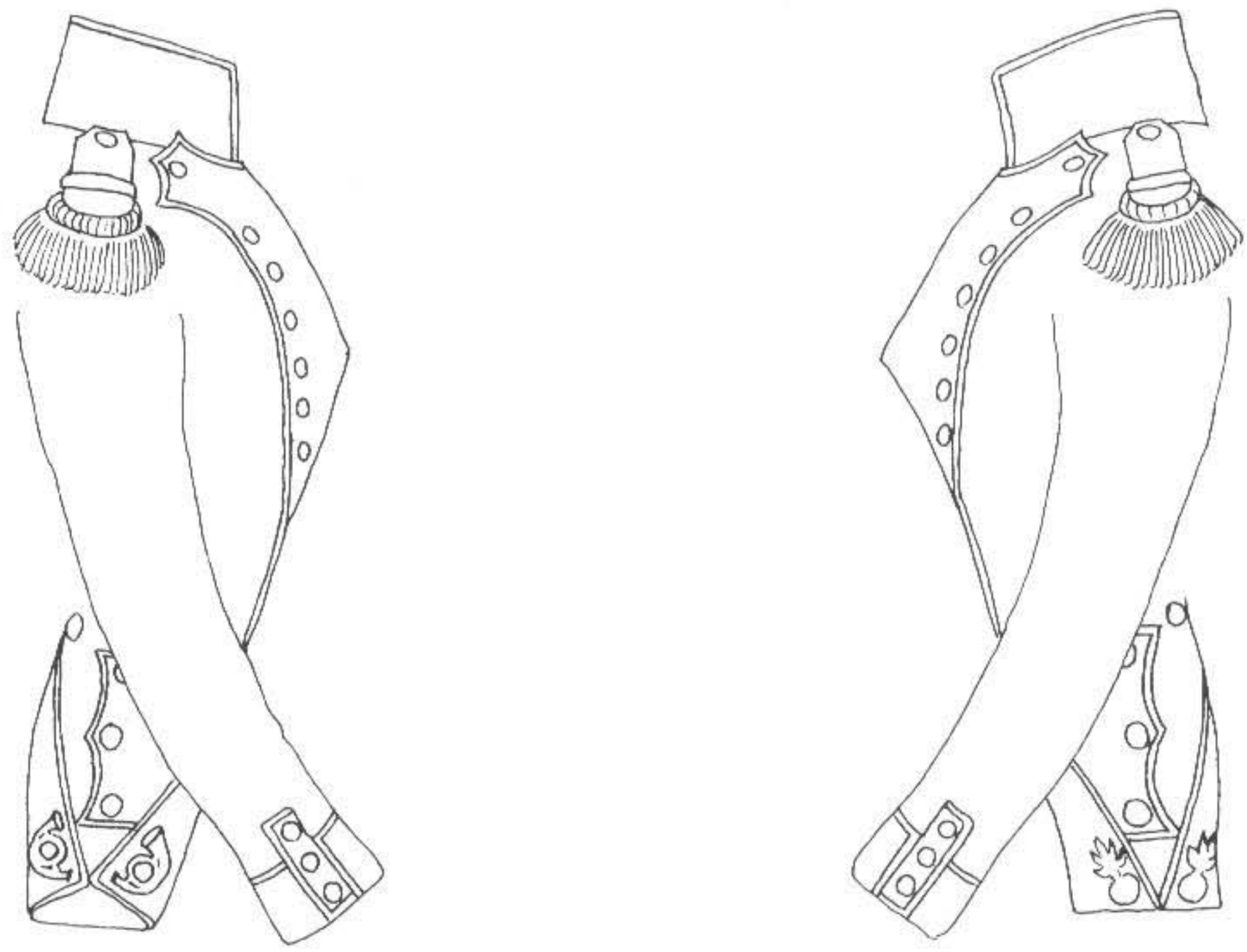
In other matters of dress, the minutiae of stocks, cravats, gloves, forage caps, hair dressing, etc., the Light infantry resembled the Line. In April 1806 the first issue of greatcoats was made, these being beige in colour; prior to this date, overcoats had been provided either by the individual or from regimental funds, in a variety of styles.

The first major change in the Light infantry uniform of the Empire period was the adoption of the 1806 shako, which was introduced for all infantry and in general use by the following year; however, it is likely that the previous Light infantry caps with detachable peaks were retained for some considerable time, and as in every other item of uniform there were many variations upon the official regulation. The 1806 cap had a black felt body with black leather upper and lower bands and sometimes a leather chevron as extra strengthening on each side (these latter were usual for Line infantry but apparently rare for the Light). The cap

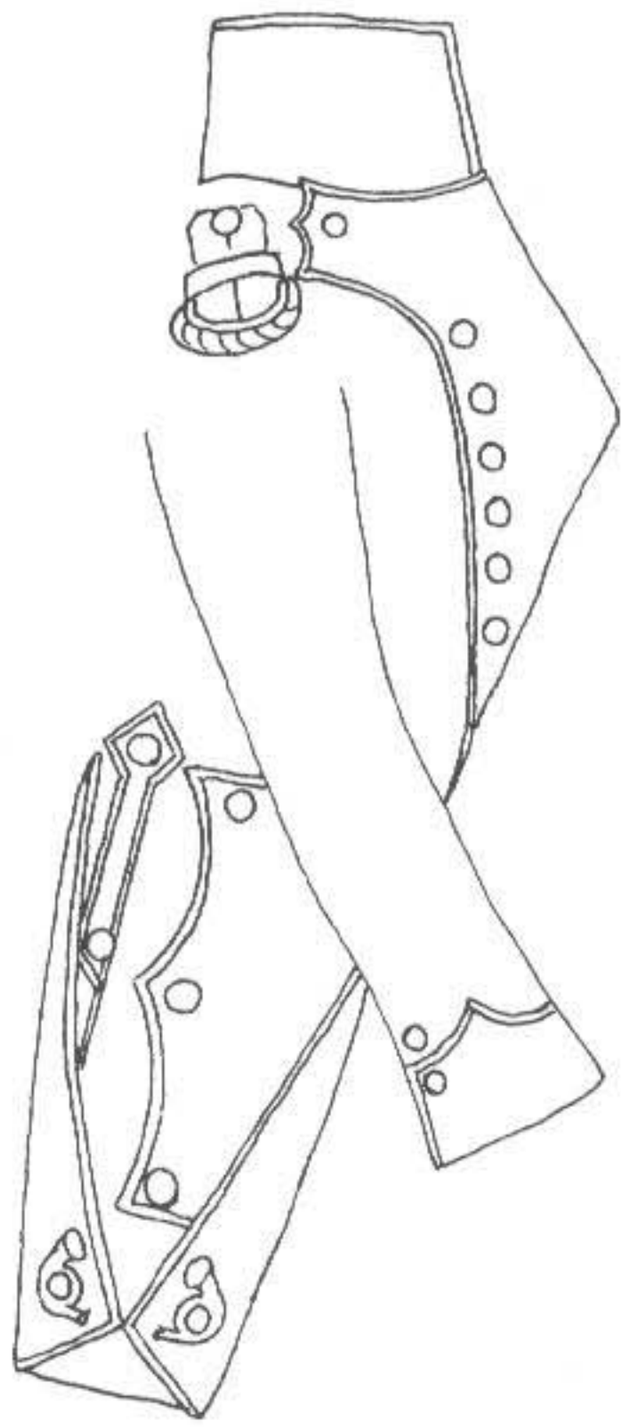


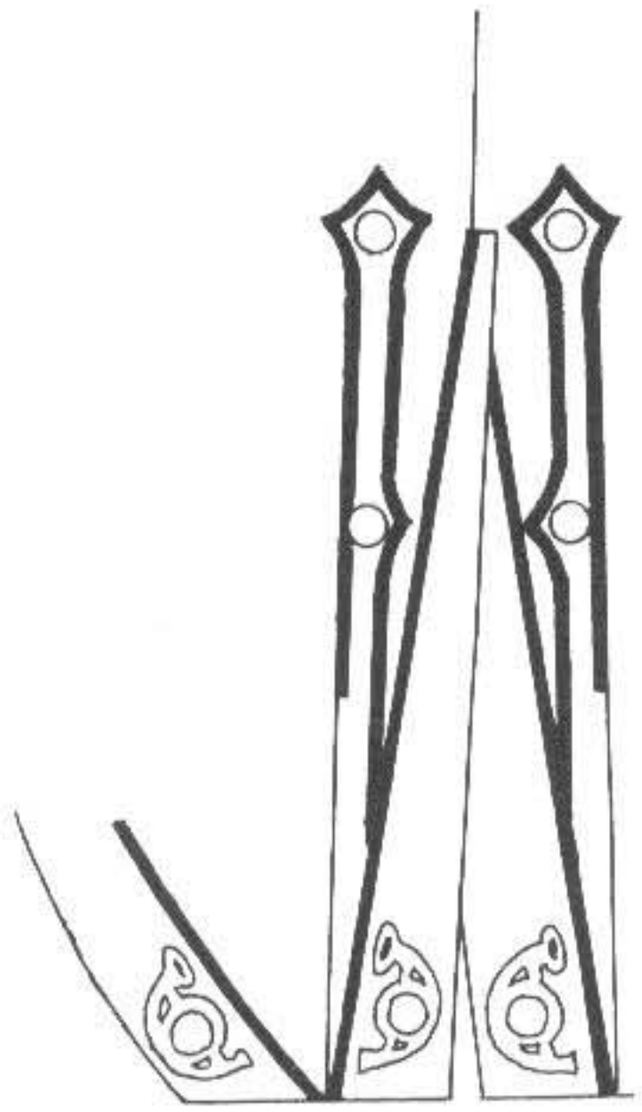
Cuff designs, the first two common to Line as well as Light infantry. Left to right: flapless cuff, with method of opening; flapped cuff, with method of opening; cuff-design of the 1812 light infantry *habit-veste*.

was issued initially without chinscales, but these were frequently added unofficially some time before their authorisation, in white metal with circular bosses bearing a hunting horn, or a grenade for *carabiniers*. At the front of the shako was a tricolour cockade and below it a diamond-shaped white metal plate, officially bearing an embossed eagle with the regimental number below, with a hunting horn added in some cases (especially for *voltigeurs*), though many regimental variations included the use of brass plates by the 8th, 17th and 26th. Plumes, worn at the front from 1806, gradually went out of fashion, and at this period were almost invariably of the upright style, though examples of the old drooping type occur in contemporary pictures as late as c.1807. Plumes were red for *carabiniers*, green or green with red tip for *chasseurs*, and green and yellow or yellow and red for *voltigeurs*; however, they were often replaced by coloured pompons (sometimes with tufts) in similar colouring. Shako cords remained red for *carabiniers* and



(Left): *Chasseur's habit*, **with flapped cuff and turnbacks of pre-1810 style. (Right):** *Carabinier's habit*, **with re-styled turnbacks, c.1810.**





(Left): Officer's *habit*, **Light regiments, with pocket-piping** *à la Soubise*, **and regimental variation in the pointed cuffs. (Right): coat-tails with piping** *à la Soubise*; **piping shown shaded.**

usually white for the others, *chasseurs* only rarely being depicted with the earlier green cords. As in the Line infantry, shakos were frequently covered on campaign by oilskin or linen.

A new shako was authorised on 9 November 1810, slightly taller and more robust than that of 1806, without the side chevrons and with chinscales, which many regiments had already adopted. Cords and plumes were abolished officially but this order seems to have had limited effect, especially among élite companies. Officers' plumes were white (colonel), red-over-white (major) or red (*chef de bataillon*), with shako lace varying with rank, and pompons were worn by other ranks, as before. The 1810 shako plate consisted of a white metal diamond bearing an embossed hunting horn with the regimental number in the loop (a grenade and number for *carabiniers*), but again many regimental variations are recorded: the 17th retained their brass plates, for example, and another style consisted of an eagle atop a crescent bearing the regimental number, adumbrating the 1812 pattern.

The minutiae of regimental uniform varied even within the same corps; variations on the regulation dress might be adopted for only a brief period or even by a single battalion of the whole, either from necessity or at the instigation of a colonel or *chef de bataillon*. Examples of regimental variations are noted below, though it is possible that a uniform recorded by a contemporary observer may not have been typical of the whole unit, and might conceivably represent a single costume worn on campaign by reason of necessity or personal preference.

1st Léger: c.1804–05: *chasseurs* and *carabiniers*, red pointed cuffs edged white. *Chasseurs*, green epaulettes and upright side plume, brass hunting horn shako badge; see Plate B. Officers' shakos with black bands, silver lace. *Voltigeurs*, yellow or *chamois* collar and cuffs; green epaulettes with yellow crescents, green plume and cords, shako badge as for *chasseurs*; *voltigeur* officers, silver upper shako band, badge and cords, cockade at left with no loop. *Carabiniers*,

bearskin cap with red plume and cords (officers' silver).

2nd Léger: Drawings made by French PoW dated 1814 and depicting uniform of c.1808–09 show: *Chasseur*, shako with white metal lozenge plate, white cords hung diagonally right to left, red plume with green base, red epaulettes with green fringe, green gaiter ornaments, red sword knot with green strap and fringe. *Carabinier*: bearskin with diagonal white cords, red plume, epaulettes, gaiter lace and sword knot. *Voltigeur*: as Plate F. *Voltigeur* shown c.1810–12 with yellow plume with red base rising from yellow ball, white metal eagle shako plate and chinscales, yellow cords and upper and lower shako bands, yellow collar piped red, red epaulettes with yellow crescents, red three-pointed cuff flaps piped white, yellow sword knot with yellow strap and fringe, yellow gaiter lace and yellow tassel with red knot.

3rd Léger: Pictures drawn in Lüneburg 1807–08 show a *carabinier* in a brown fur cap with red plume and white cords; *voltigeur* and *chasseur* both with white hunting horn turnback badges and sword knots, and archaic-looking, almost cylindrical shakos with black leather upper and lower bands, white cords and lozenge plate; *voltigeur* with yellow-tipped green plume, green epaulettes with yellow crescents; *chasseur* with green epaulettes with red retaining strap, green plume, and instead of a cockade on the shako a curious, flat pompon or padded disc, red with green edge. All have red cuff flaps with four buttons, and gaiters cut to a point at front and back, but no trimming. *Carabinier* drummer shown with the same shako but minus a plate, with a frontal cockade secured by a red lace loop, red pompon, and cords hung diagonally from top right of cap; blue coat with crimson collar and lapels piped white, red epaulettes and piping to top edge of cuff, blue waistcoat piped white, gaiters as before but with red lace and tassel; brown fur drum-apron, brass drum with tricolour hoops. All have short queues and lightly powdered hair.

4th Léger: 1810 shako plate bore a hunting horn with numeral '4' below, instead of within the loop of the horn.

5th Léger: 1806 shako plate bore an embossed, crowned eagle with a large hunting horn superimposed, with '5' on a disc below. *Voltigeurs* at this period had yellow collars piped red, green epaulettes with red crescent, yellow-tipped green plume.

7th Léger: 1806 shako plate bore embossed crowned eagle on a hunting horn, with '7' stamped out of the curl of the horn. *Chasseurs* c.1809 had white shako cords, eagle plate, with a red pompon recorded (perhaps in different 'company' colours); blue shoulder straps piped white, green gaiter lace with red tassel knot. *Carabinier* officer depicted in busby, red plume, red bag laced silver. *Voltigeurs*, yellow epaulettes with red fringe, white crescent; yellow-over-red plume over yellow ball, yellow shako cords

Chasseur **in the classic dress of the Light regiments of the Empire period; engraving by Martinet.**

and upper and lower shako bands (upper band silver for NCOs), red sword knot with white strap and yellow fringe, yellow gaiter lace with yellow-fringed red tassel.

8th Léger: c.1809, white metal eagle-on-crescent plates and chinscales. *Chasseurs*, white shako cords and gaiter lace, green pompon, blue shoulder straps piped white. *Carabiniers*, shakos with red upper and lower bands, plume and cords; red gaiter lace, red epaulettes with white crescents. *Voltigeurs*, yellow upper and lower shako bands and cords, red-tipped yellow plume, yellow epaulettes with red fringe, yellow gaiter lace with red tassel knot, yellow fringe.

9th Léger: *Voltigeurs* c.1804–06 as Plate C, including yellow cuff flaps, brass-scaled epaulettes with red crescent and green fringe, and blue breeches with white vertical piping on edges of front flap. Otto MS shows *carabiniers* c.1807–08 in fur caps; officers' as Plate D, with silver diagonal cords from top right, red rear patch with blue cross, encircled with silver lace; *carabinier's* cap similar but white cords hung from top left to bottom right. Officers' cuff flaps bear four buttons, but *carabinier* and *chasseur* have three-pointed flaps piped blue, with only three buttons; white waistcoats. *Carabinier*, red sword knot, red epaulettes with white crescents; *chasseur*, green epaulettes with red crescents, red sword knot with green strap and fringe, 1806 shako with brass lozenge plate, red-tipped green plume over green ball, white cords and cockade loop. Gaiters cut in a point at the front, edged white, *carabinier* with red tassel, *chasseur* red tassel with green fringe. Officers of the 9th had the distinction of carrying sabres like those of the Imperial Guard *Chasseurs*.

Light infantryman and *chasseur à cheval*, showing the similarity of costume between the two 'light' branches of the French army. Print after Goddard & Booth.

10th Léger: Zimmermann shows officer c.1808 as Plate D. c.1809, blue pointed cuffs piped white, white metal eagle-on-crescent plate, white cords; *carabinier*, red plume and gaiter lace, brass-scaled epaulettes with red fringe; *chasseur*, green pompon and gaiter lace with red knot, green epaulettes with red crescents; *voltigeur*, yellow-tipped green plume, green gaiter lace, yellow collar piped white, brass-scaled epaulettes with green fringe.

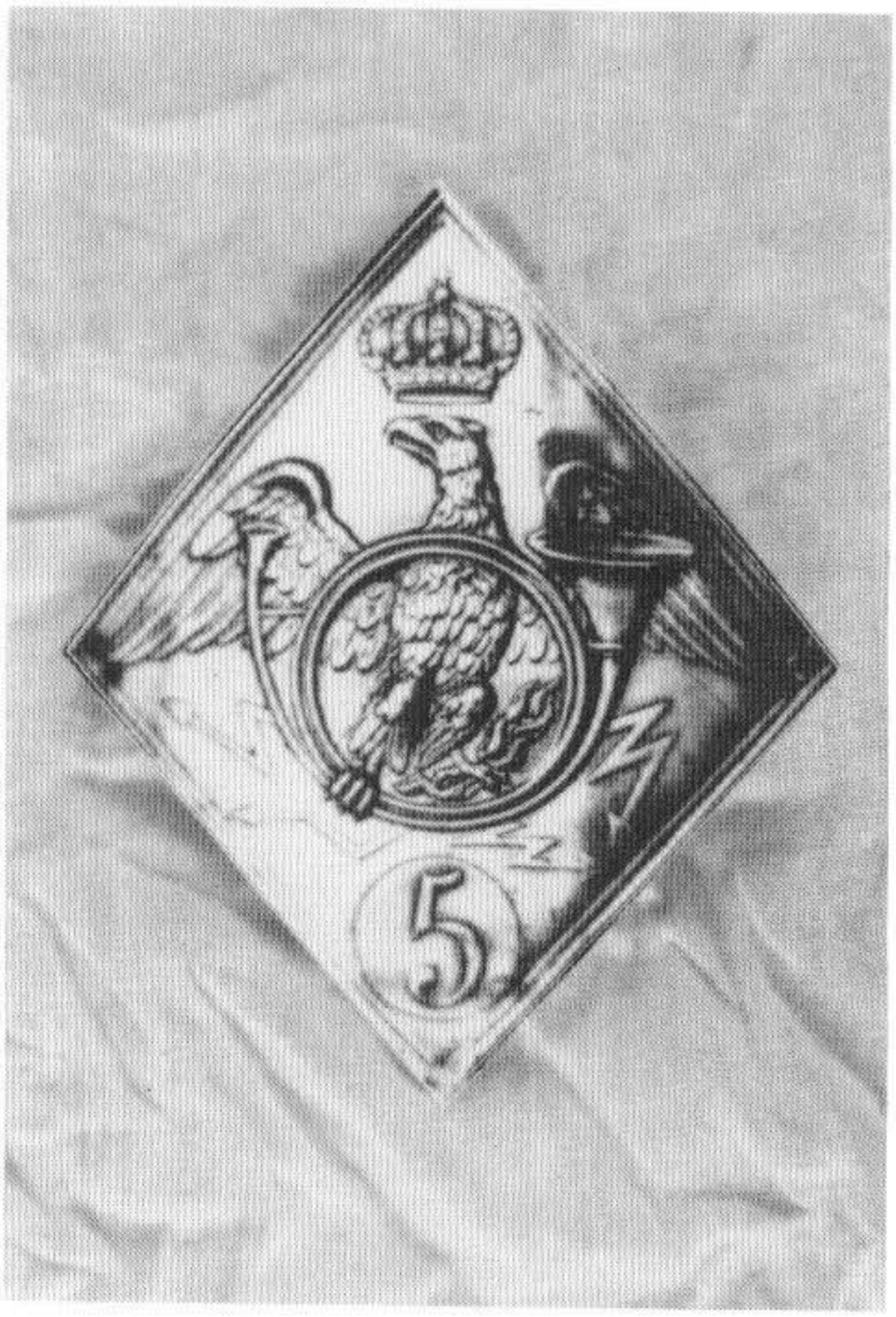
12th Léger: *Chasseur* c.1810–12, white metal eagle-on-crescent shako plate and chinscales, white cords, red pompon with green tuft, red collar and pointed cuffs piped white, green epaulettes with red crescents, red sword knot with green strap and tassel, white piping to waistcoat and upper edge of round-topped gaiters.

14th Léger: Originally probably wore uniform of the old '*Légion Noire*' (officially *1er Légion des Francs de l'Ouest*) from which the 14th was formed in 1798, Zix recording this worn in Switzerland in 1798–99: bicorn or *chapeau à la Henri IV*, brown coat faced sky-blue, red waistcoat, sky-blue breeches or white overalls, red epaulettes and plume for *carabiniers*, green for *chasseurs* (see Plate A). 14th wore hussar *mirlitons* c.1801, with red 'wing' for *carabiniers*, sky-blue for *chasseurs* and buff for the 'scouts' who became *voltigeurs* in 1804 (see Plate B). *Carabiniers* left fur caps in store prior to 1805 campaign and never retrieved them, wearing instead shakos with red 'wing' wrapped around, edged white (shown

with black edge for officer), brass grenade badge on front, red plume, white diagonal cords from top right, red epaulettes with white crescents. In Corfu c.1808 'wings' were added to shakos of other companies, sky-blue for *chasseurs*, yellow for *voltigeurs*, with plumes (apparently worn at the side) of green, and yellow or yellow-over-green respectively. Instead of *habit-veste*, white waistcoats commonly worn in Corfu, red collar and cuffs for *carabiniers* and yellow for *voltigeurs*; epaulettes may have been worn on the waistcoat, red (*carabiniers*), green with red crescents (*chasseurs*), yellow with green fringe (*voltigeurs*); white shako cords for all; see Plate C. Officers in Corfu shown with long-tailed, sky-blue, single-breasted *surtout* and buff breeches for undress, with ordinary epaulettes and shako. Officers' memoirs note that instead of the shako, breeches, shoulder belt and sword and hussar boots, it was usual for officers of the 14th to wear the bicorn, long trousers of various colours (often buttoned up the sides), sabre and waist belt, and either shoes or infantry boots with turned-over tops.

15th Léger: *Voltigeurs* c.1809, yellow upper shako band and cords, yellow-over-red plume over red ball, red epaulettes with yellow fringe, yellow sword knot and gaiter lace with red tassels.

16th Léger: c.1806 *carabinier* shakos bore white metal grenade badge about six inches high; Zimmermann c.1806–07 shows *chasseur* in old-style cylindrical cap minus plate but with cockade at the front, green plume and gaiter edging, old-style flapless cuff in red, green epaulettes with red crescents, white-piped waistcoat. *Carabinier* shown c.1807 wearing 1801 shako with detachable peak, red upper and lower bands, cords, plume and three-pointed cuff flaps. *Voltigeur*, yellow upper shako band, white cords, yellow-tipped green plume over yellow ball, yellow collar and cuff flaps, green epaulettes with red crescents, red sword knot with green strap and fringe, yellow gaiter lace with green tassel. *Chasseur* c.1810 shown with white diagonal shako cords, green pompon, blue pointed cuffs piped white, white gaiter lace with green-fringed red tassel. In Spain, *carabinier* and *voltigeur* shown with blue pointed cuffs piped white, fur *carabinier* cap with red plume and white cords, white gaiter lace with red tassel; *voltigeur*, white metal eagle shako plate, diagonal white cords from top right, yellow-tipped



Shako plate, 5th Léger, 1806 pattern.

green plume, yellow collar piped red, yellow epaulettes with green fringe, yellow sword knot with white strap, green fringe; white gaiter lace, yellow tassel with green fringe. Alternative version shows red piping to élites' uniforms, green epaulettes with red crescents. *Chasseur* shown in campaign dress with covered shako and ochre baggy trousers (*saroual*), three-pointed red cuff flaps, red piping, green epaulettes. Surgeon shown wearing bicorn with silver loop, white sleeved waistcoat with pink collar and cuffs worn over blue hussar-style waistcoat with pink braid.

17th Léger: 1806 shako plate brass elongated hexagon with embossed crowned eagle over '17'. 1810-style brass lozenge plate bearing only '17' perhaps worn before that date; brass chinscales. c.1808, white shako cords hung diagonally from top right; *chasseurs*, white-over-green plume over red ball, green epaulettes with red crescent and fringe; *voltigeurs*, yellow-over-green plume, brass scale epaulettes with green fringe, white gaiter lace with

(A) White-metal shako plate of 1810 pattern, 4th Léger, of somewhat crude design and construction; the numeral is borne below the horn instead of in the centre. (B) Non-regulation shako plate of the 17th Léger, in brass. The somewhat naïve design and execution perhaps suggests provincial or even regimental manufacture. (C) Light infantry insignia: device on an officer's gorget, 29th Léger.

yellow or green-fringed yellow tassel, officer with busby, silver-laced red bag, silver cords, *voltigeur* plume. c.1809–12, white metal eagle-on-crescent shako plates or continued use of brass hexagon, brass chinscales, shako cords worn in normal fashion. *Carabinier*, fur cap, red plume and cords, or shako with red upper and lower bands, red epaulettes; *voltigeur*, yellow shako lace, green (or yellow) cords, yellow-over-green plume over red (or green) ball, green epaulettes with yellow crescents, yellow collar piped white (or red), yellow gaiter lace; *chasseur*, white shako cords, red-over-green plume (or green ball), green epaulettes with white (or red) crescents, white (or green) gaiter lace. One source shows orange cockade loops; officers' upper shako band of black velvet bearing silver stars. Another source, c.1810–12, shows red pointed cuffs and turnbacks, *chasseur* with shoulder straps and red gaiter lace, *voltigeur* with red-over-green plume, red epaulettes, *chamois* collar, green gaiter lace and green sword knot with red tassel.

23rd Léger: 1806 shako plate bore embossed crowned eagle over hunting horn with '23' in the loop, above a letter 'N'.

24th Léger: *Chasseur* shown 1810 wearing white diagonal shako cord, lozenge plate, green pompon bearing white number '24', green epaulettes with red crescents, the straps and crescents piped white.

27th Léger: Shako with green side plume over cockade secured by white loop, white cords, worn as late as c.1806–07. c.1809, white metal eagle plate and chinscales; *chasseur*, red-tipped green plume, white cords, green epaulettes with red crescents, white gaiter lace with red tassel; *carabinier*, fur cap, red cords and plume, gaiters as *chasseur*; *voltigeur*, yellow upper and lower shako bands and plume, yellow-tipped green plume over red ball, shoulder straps or green epaulettes with yellow crescents, white gaiter lace with yellow tassel; *voltigeur* officer, red cuffs with blue flaps, yellow collar, busby with silver-laced yellow bag.

31st Léger: Zimmermann shows a *voltigeur* sergeant and *sapeur* wearing the long-tailed *habit*, c.1808, with square-cut lapels (perhaps in error?); *voltigeur* with yellow-tipped green plume over yellow ball, green cords, silver upper shako band and side chevrons, green epaulettes with white fringe and crescents, green sword knot, and green gaiter tassels with yellow knot.

Têtes de Colonne

Uniforms of the regimental bands, usually dependent upon the whim of the colonel or committee, included some striking variations, with the less exotic examples usually including the shako with the white plume of regimental headquarters staff, officers' *habits* with laced facings, trefoil epaulettes, officers' boots and swords. Drummers and *cornets* usually wore the uniform of their company with the addition of lace on the facings and often large 'swallows'-nest' wings worn below the company epaulettes. Recorded examples of musicians' dress include:

'Eagle', 14th Léger, 1804 pattern. White central diamond, alternate red and blue triangles (blue at top right and bottom left), all decorations gold. Reverse inscription read: '*L'Empereur|des français,|au 14^me Regiment|d'Infanterie|Légère.*' Gilded 'Eagle'.

7th Léger: c.1809, chasseur drummer with ordinary shako, green pompon, red collar, cuffs, flaps and lapels with broad white lace, green epaulettes with red crescents, drum-belt bearing brass hunting horn badge over the stick holder. *Voltigeur cornet* similar, yellow shako bands, yellow-over-red plume over yellow ball, facings as before, yellow epaulettes with white crescent and red fringe, yellow collar laced white.

8th Léger: c.1809, blue uniform with green collar, cuffs, lapels and turnbacks all laced silver/white, white-over-green plume over white ball, white shako cords; drum-major similar but silver lace and epaulettes, silver-laced waistcoat and breeches (Austrian knots on thighs), silver-laced bicorn with red-tipped white plume over tricolour panache, silver-laced red baldric with gilt plate. Negro musician shown with green shako with black bands, green-over-white plume. Drummers in 'company' uniform but green collar, lapels and cuff flaps edged with tricolour lace.

10th Léger: Two recorded varieties, changed apparently c.1809. Musicians, ordinary *habit-veste* with red collar, blue pointed cuffs and lapels with white lace; white trefoils, waistcoat, plume, shako cords, gaiter lace and Austrian knots on thighs; officers' sword on shoulder belt. Drummers with company distinctions plus white-laced facings (including loops on lapels) and seven inverted white Vs on sleeve. Alternative uniform as above, but with sky-blue coat, waistcoat and breeches, sky-blue cuffs with red flaps, officers' boots; fifers same, but red collar, cuffs and flaps laced white; drummers with 'company' uniforms as before, but without lapel loops, and sleeve chevrons of mixed red-and-white lace.

12th Léger: *Chasseur cornet* as Plate G; note that unlike ordinary *chasseurs* described above, *cornet* shown with blue cuffs and three-pointed red flaps, and wings instead of epaulettes, all laced white.

14th Léger: Musicians originally wore *mirlitons* like other ranks, red 'wing', red-over-white-over-blue plume, green coat with red collar and cuff flaps, white piping and trefoils, officers' boots. Later wore shako with wing attached as remainder of regiment, side plume coloured as before, ordinary coat with white lace edging to red collar and blue cuffs and lapels; red cuff flaps piped white.

15th Léger: 1805–07, band wore red coat, pointed cuffs, green collar, lapels, turnbacks and waistcoat all laced silver, silver trefoils, green breeches, officers' boots, shako with silver lozenge plate, white diagonal cords, white plume over green ball; drum-major same, but double-width lace including Austrian knots on thighs, silver-laced bicorn, white plume over tricolour panache; drummers like

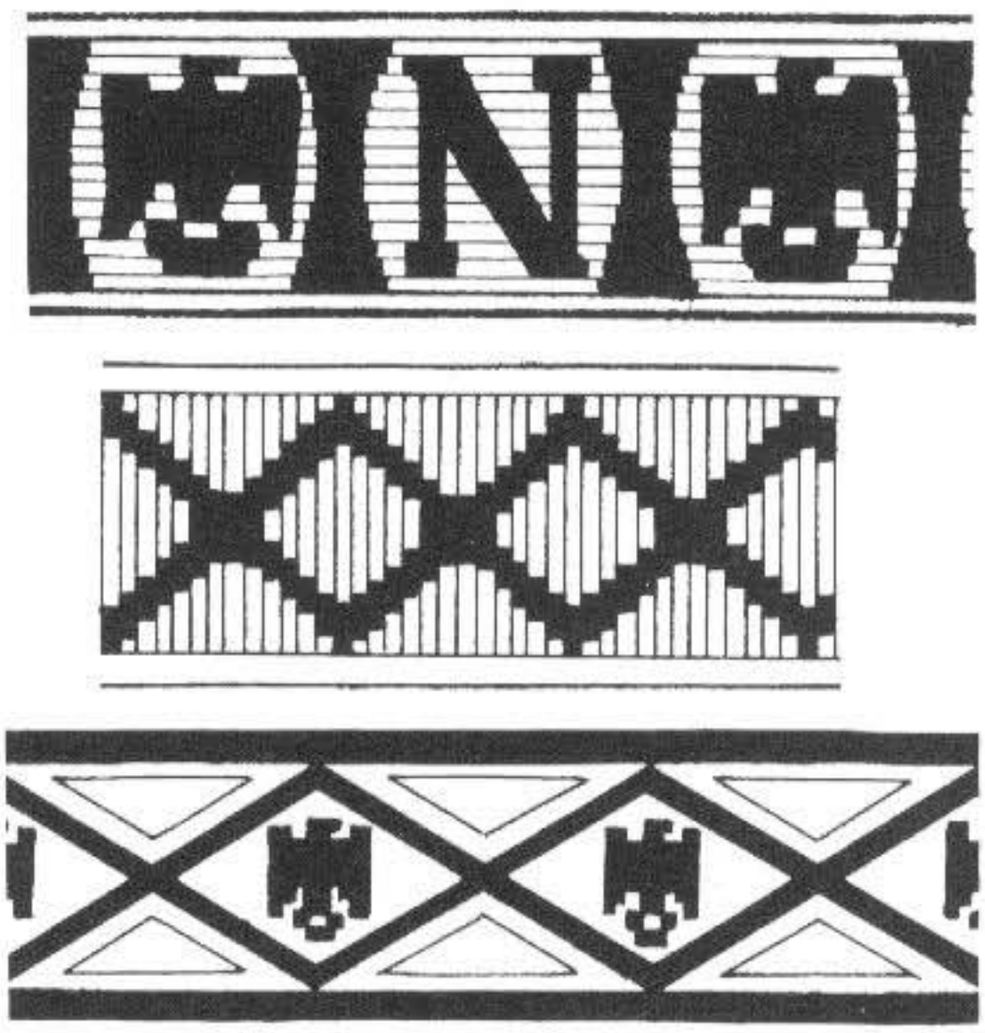
Voltigeur cornet; **print by P. and H. Lecomte.**

musicians, but company shako ornaments and epaulettes, facings piped white (collar piped red), tricolour lace on collar and cuffs. Uniform of oriental musicians shown in Plate E. Band uniform 1807–09, sky-blue shako with white upper band, cords and side plume; plume at front for drummers. Red coat, collar and cuff flaps; sky-blue lapels, cuffs and turnbacks, laced white (including loops on lapels), white trefoils, dark blue breeches, officers' boots; drum-major same, but longer-tailed coat, silver lace, silver-laced bicorn with white plume over sky-blue panache, black shoulder belt with gilt plate; drummers as musicians, but white epaulettes, green-laced gaiters with red tassels.

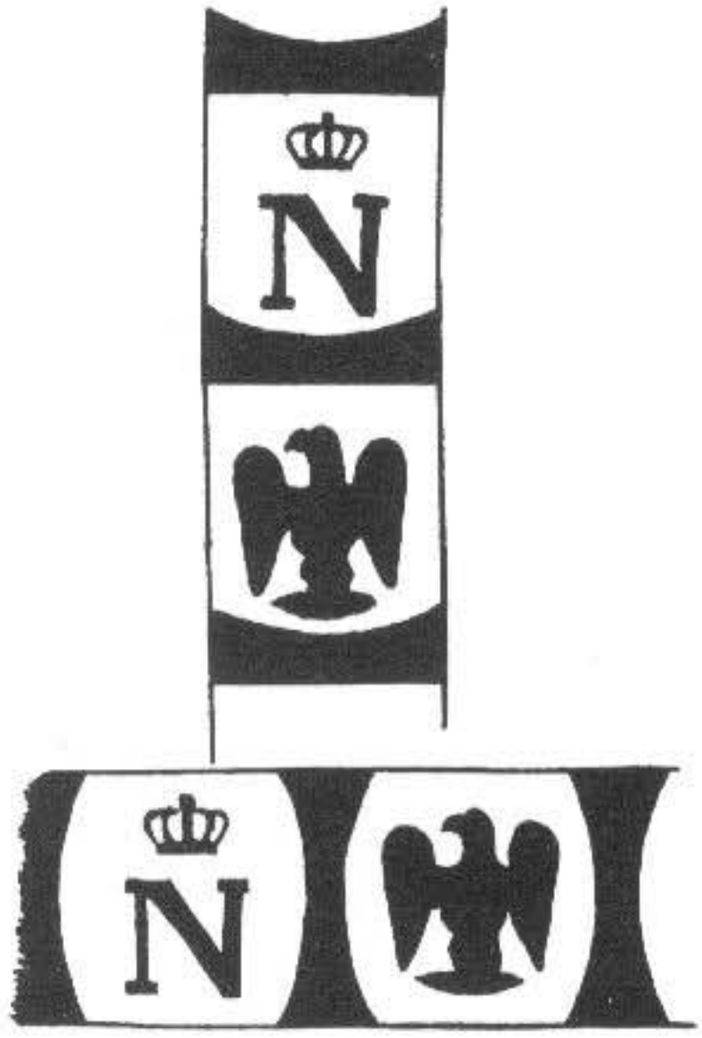
16th Léger: Musicians c.1808–10, shako with white metal eagle plate and chinscales, diagonal cords, white plume; red coat, green collar, lapels and pointed cuffs all laced white, white trefoils, green waistcoat and breeches, white gaiter lace; drum-major similar but silver lace and epaulettes, silver-laced bicorn, white plume over tricolour panache, silver-laced red baldric and waist belt with silver and gilt plates respectively. *Voltigeur cornet* shown in same uniform, but green plume tipped yellow, yellow epaulettes, yellow gaiter tassel with green fringe.

17th Léger: Two styles in use; until c.1807–08, musicians wore shako with red-over-white-over-blue side plume, white cords, sky-blue coat with red collar, cuffs, flaps, lapels and turnbacks all laced white, white trefoils, dark blue breeches, white gaiter lace; later with white plume transferred to front of cap, sky-blue collar and cuff flaps; drum-major same but silver lace, bicorn with red-over-blue plume. Other musicians wore ordinary uniform with red facings: *voltigeur cornet* shown c.1805 with red collar, lapels, cuffs, flaps and turnbacks all laced white; and c.1808 with usual blue cuffs and *chamois* collar but still red lapels. Drummers similar, red lapels and red or blue cuffs, white lace; *tambour-maître* same, *carabinier* distinctions, red-plumed busby with red bag piped white. New band uniform of Polish style adopted c.1807–08, retaining red (crimson) and sky-blue colouring of previous uniform, but with yellow coat and czapka. Musicians wore same uniform as illustrated in Plate E but with shorter-tailed coat, white lace, crimson czapka cords and cuffs with yellow flaps piped white, white-over-green plume, white gaiter lace; czapka plate bore brass '17' on white metal centre of brass 'sunburst'.

27th Léger: Musicians c.1809, white metal eagle shako plate and chinscales, white cords and plume; sky-blue coat with crimson collar, cuffs, flaps, lapels and turnbacks; white lace, trefoils and waistcoat, sky-blue breeches; *chef de musique* same but silver lace (including upper shako band), crimson waistcoat. Two recorded versions of *chasseur* drummers: as musician but green plume tipped red, with either green epaulettes with red crescents or crimson 'swallows'-nest' wings; facings edged with tricolour lace, crimson diamonds edged sky-blue bearing sky-blue eagles, with alternate crimson triangles edged white, lace with sky-blue edging.



Musicians' lace. *Top:* **variety of 'Imperial' lace worn with the 1812 uniform: green devices on yellow, red edge.** *Middle:* **variety of tricolour lace as worn by 15th Léger: blue intersecting lines on white, red edge.** *Bottom:* **drummers' lace, 27th Léger: blue eagles on crimson ground, blue diagonals and edge, white triangles with crimson centres.**



Design of 'Imperial' lace introduced for drummers on the 1812 uniform: designs for vertical seams (above) and horizontal (below). Green designs on yellow.

Sapeurs

As for the Line infantry, *sapeurs*' uniforms were usually styled on those of *carabiniers*, plus grenade and crossed-axes sleeve badges, apron, gauntlets, axe and case, straight-bladed sabre and carbine, with beards mandatory. Among recorded regimental variations are:

5th Léger: Red-plumed busby, red bag piped white; usual coat but yellow lapels piped red, blue pointed cuffs piped white, brass scale epaulettes with red crescent and fringe, white grenade-over-axes badge, white gaiter edging.

7th Léger: Red plumed busby, red bag piped white.

10th Léger: Busby; red epaulettes with crescents edged white, red crossed-axes badge.

12th Léger: Busby, red bag and plume, red epaulettes and axes badge.

15th Léger: Busby, red bag and plume, white piping and cords; red coat faced sky-blue, white badges and epaulettes, scarlet crescents; Vanson shows *sapeur* minus apron, sky-blue waistcoat, grey trousers with red stripes, red cuffs with sky-blue flaps.

16th Léger: Kolbe (1806–07) shows a Württemberg-style uniform: blue coat with mauve lapels and cuffs, mauve collar and turnbacks bearing blue grenades, red epaulettes, mauve grenade-over-axes badge, blue breeches with mauve stripe, 1801 shako with red upper and lower bands, white metal eagle-on-crescent plate, red plume, white cords; black apron and gauntlets, green waist belt with frontal pouch bearing white stitching. c.1808–10, ordinary uniform, bearskin, red plume and grenade-over-axes badge, white cords, red piping on side of gaiters.

17th Léger: c.1808, red epaulettes, lapels, gaiter lace, white grenade-over axes badge, red-plumed busby, white cords; alternative version shows ordinary uniform, red-plumed bearskin, white cords, brass scale epaulettes with red crescent and fringe, three red chevrons only on upper sleeves.

27th Léger: c.1808, sky-blue coat faced crimson, bearskin, red cords and plume, white grenade-over-axes badge upon red chevrons on upper sleeve.

31st Léger: Zimmermann's *sapeur*, c.1808, has busby with red plume, cords and bag piped white, red badges and cuffs, blue shoulder straps piped white, breeches with white stripe.

Eagle-escorts

Details of 'Eagles', flags and their escorts as noted in MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*, except that the *Deuxième* and *Troisième Porte-Aigles* usually wore *carabinier* uniform, with the usual pistol holster and halberd; Plate G illustrates a regimental variation of the 7th Léger, in which three silver chevrons are worn on the right arm, instead of the regulation four red chevrons on each arm specified in February 1808, altered to two red chevrons in March 1811.

The 1812 uniform

The so-called 'Bardin' regulations (named after the major responsible for their issue), introduced on 19 January 1812, reformed the Light infantry uniform as for the Line infantry, though in the same way the changes took months, evey years, to come into effect; most of these changes were as described in the companion, MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*.

The 1812 regulations introduced a short-tailed *habit-veste* with lapels closed to the waist, so that the traditional pointed-ended lapels disappeared; the coatee was dark blue with dark blue lapels and pointed cuffs piped white, blue turnbacks, vertical pockets piped white, and red collar piped blue for all except *voltigeurs*, whose *chamois* collars were piped blue. Turnback badges were red grenades (*carabiniers*) and white (*chasseurs*) or yellow hunting horns (*voltigeurs*); *carabiniers* retained red epaulettes, and shoulder straps were officially dark blue piped white (*chasseurs*) and *chamois* piped blue (*voltigeurs*), but many retained their epaulettes. The blue breeches were worn with knee gaiters cut straight at the top. The 1812 shako was like that of the Line, *carabiniers*' shakos (officially replacing the fur cap) being 15mm taller than those of the remainder. *Carabiniers* and *voltigeurs* adopted shorter horsehair plumes (*aigrettes*) of red and yellow respectively; *chasseurs* used flat, '*lentile*'-shaped pompons like fusiliers of the Line infantry, in company colours (green, sky-blue, orange and violet), though the older pompons seem to have persisted. Shakos of *carabiniers* and *voltigeurs* could have bands and side chevrons of scarlet or yellow respectively. Shako plate and chinscales were like those of the Line, but in white metal, with the plate having the regimental number pierced in the plaque below the eagle, within the loop of an embossed hunting horn. The 1812 waistcoat was like that of the Line, but dark blue with scarlet shoulder straps for *carabiniers* and *chamois* for *voltigeurs*. The 1812 *habit-veste* seems to have been in use by July 1813 for regiments in Germany. At the end of that year a shortage of smooth beige cloth caused other types of greatcoat to be authorised, of beige twill, or 'mixed' cloth of white with blue interwoven, together with black leather accoutrements instead of buff leather, which was more difficult to obtain.

As for the Line, officers' jackets had longer tails, and their shakos silver upper bands of width (20, 25, 30 and 35mm) according to rank, colonels with a 15mm band below one of 35mm, with this lower band (and epaulette straps) in gold for majors. Feather plumes were restricted to colonels, majors and *chefs de bataillon* as in 1810, others wearing their company plume or pompon. It is uncertain how much of the 1812 regulation dress was adopted by officers (many probably preferred the single-breasted *surtout* with scarlet or *chamois* collar for active service); but it is doubtful if certain of the 1812 provisions were ever common, for example the prescribed silver gorget with gilt Imperial arms, earlier patterns probably proliferating.

For musicians, the 'Imperial livery' regulated on 30 December 1811 was like that specified for the Line, and intended to standardise the multi-coloured costume then in use. The single-breasted green uniform had a silver-laced collar for musicians (double lace for bandmaster and drum-major), and 'Imperial' lace for drummers (alternate green and yellow segments, the yellow bearing interwoven eagle and 'N'), sewn along on seams and as breast loops and sleeve chevrons. Unlike the Line, however, the musicians' uniform did not bear regimental facings, as blue did not appear well with the green; their facings (except collar) were usually green instead of the red used on Line uniforms. The 1812 regulations ordered that *sabres-briquet* were to be carried by musicians instead of the popular officers' *epées*, but many musicians (as privately-contracted regimental employees) seem to have considered the latter their right and continued to carry them.

As for the Line, numerous variations on the 1812 uniform are recorded, including the retention of the old cuffs (blue with red flaps) by some (e.g. 7th Léger), though the new pointed cuffs had been used unofficially by others for years. Recorded variations

1: Chasseur, Légion des Allobroges, 1792
2: Chasseur, Paris National Guard, 1792
3: Carabinier, 14eLéger, 1798-99

1: 'Voltigeur', 14eLéger, c.1801
2: Chasseur, 1erLéger, 1804-06
3: Carabinier, 1801

1: Voltigeur, 9eLéger, 1806
2: Sergeant-major, Tirailleurs Corses, 1805
3: Carabinier, 14eLéger, 1808
4: Carabinier, walking-out dress, 1806

1: Captain, 10e Léger, 1810
2: Lieutenant of voltigeurs, 1809
3: Major, 6eLéger, 1810
4: Officer of carabiniers, 9eLéger, 1809

1: Drum-major, 17^e Léger, full dress, 1807
2: Musician, 15^e Léger, 1807
3: Chasseur drummer, 27^e Léger, 1809

1: Sapeur, 8eLéger, 1809
2: Cantinière, 15eLéger, 1809
3: Voltigeur, 2eLéger, 1809

1: Porte-Aigle, 7^e Léger, 1809
2: Sergent Porte-Fanion, 8^e Léger, 1809
3: Chasseur cornet, 12^e Léger, 1810-12

1: Officer of chasseurs, 7eLéger, 1812-14
2: Voltigeur, 10eLéger, 1812
3: Fifer, 10eLéger, 1812
4: Chasseur, 1813

include the following details:

5th Léger: Musicians c.1813 wore 1812 pattern coatee, green throughout, white collar-lace and piping, white trefoils, green breeches, officers' boots laced white; white metal lozenge shako plate bearing '5', white-tipped green plume over white ball. Drummers, ordinary (lapelled) blue *habit-veste* with 'Imperial' lace on red collar and in seven inverted 'Vs' on sleeve.
10th Léger: Shakos bore large tricolour rosette instead of plate, with white loop; *carabiniers*, red upper and lower bands, red plume over red pompon, brass scale epaulettes, red crescent and fringe; *voltigeurs*, all these details yellow, *chamois* collar piped white. *Sapeurs*, busby, red bag and plume, yellow collar and lapels piped red, *carabinier* epaulettes, yellow grenade-over-axes badge. Musicians, green uniform and breeches, red collar laced white, red-tipped green plume. Drummers, single-breasted 1812-pattern jacket but in dark blue, yellow collar, pointed cuffs, 'swallows'-nest' wings, blue shoulder straps piped red, white piping on cuffs; mixed red-and-white lace on collar, wings, as loops on breast and seven inverted 'Vs' on sleeve. Shako as before but yellow-over-sky-blue pompon. Fifers, lapelled *habit-veste* of sky-blue with yellow collar, cuffs, lapels, turnbacks and 'swallows'-nest' wings, all edged red-and-white lace, sky-blue shoulder straps piped red, sky-blue breeches, shako as drummer. Drum-major, as fifer but silver lace, trefoils, knots on thighs, officers' boots, busby with silver-laced yellow bag, yellow plume with sky-blue tip, white shoulder belt with silver plate.
16th Léger: In Spain musicians wore green *habits* of Line style, with square-ended open lapels; white turnbacks and cuff piping, red piping on collar and lapels and three-pointed cuff flaps, white laced lapels and collar; green shako with white upper and lower bands, plume and cords, 1812 pattern plate, white breeches and waistcoat, green sword knot with red tassel; drum-major, busby with red bag, white plume over pompon coloured red-over-white-over-blue, silver epaulettes, red waistcoat, red silver-laced belt, silver-laced green breeches, red-laced officers' boots. *Voltigeur* drummer as musicians, but company collar and epaulettes, yellow upper and lower shako bands and side chevrons, yellow cords, green plume. Musicians depicted in full dress (i.e. with plumes, etc.) but with baggy trousers made from brown Spanish cloth, the regiment's blue cloth no doubt being saved for use as coats, as would be common on active service.

* * *

The Tirailleurs Corses

Though not part of the numbered light infantry regiments, the Corsican Tirailleurs were representative of a number of corps of non-French origin which were used as light infantry in the armies of the Empire; though in their case, the Tirailleurs Corses were sufficiently 'French' to warrant inclusion with the *bona fide* French light infantry.

On 8 July 1802 Bonaparte decreed that a battalion of Corsican sharpshooters (volunteers from the Depts. of Golo and Liamone) be attached to the 3rd Demi-Brigade Légère at Antibes, and in May 1803 the Bataillon de Chasseurs Corses became the 3rd Bn. of the 8th Léger. Composed of one *carabinier* and eight *chasseur* companies, the battalion formed a *voltigeur* company in March 1804. In the following month it was granted autonomy as the Bataillon de Tirailleurs Corses, commanded by Napoleon's cousin Philippe Antoine d'Ornano, future colonel of the Imperial Guard Dragoons, and received an 'Eagle' on 5 December 1804. In 1809 the strength consisted of seven *chasseur* companies (total 493 men), 64 *carabiniers*, 80 *voltigeurs*, eleven drummers and two *cornets*, plus a depôt company at Antibes. On active service from 1805 to 1810, it was reduced to six companies in September 1810 (in accordance with the re-structuring decreed in February 1808), when upon an enquiry by Napoleon 60-odd *chasseurs* of non-Corsican birth were transferred to the 18th Léger to maintain the Corsican character of the corps. On 8 September 1811 the remaining 18 officers and 679 men were transferred to the 11th Léger when the Tirailleurs Corses were disbanded.

The original uniform of the Tirailleurs was apparently like that of the Light regiments (blue, red collar, white piping) but between 1805 and 1808 it is thought that green facings were worn (Plate C), extant clothing records confirming an unidentified (contemporary?) source copied by Quinto Cenni. By 1809 (according to the Carl

Colour, 1804 pattern, 7th Léger: alternate red (top R, bottom L) and blue corners bearing the number on a white disc, white central diamond; gold embroidery. The reverse side bore the inscription '*Valeur*|*et*|*Discipline*|–|*Bataillon*'.

Colour, 1812 pattern, 7th Léger: tricolour design with the blue nearest the pole; gold embroidery and fringe. The obverse bore the inscription '*L'Empereur*|*Napoléon*|*au 7me Régiment*|*d'Infanterie*|*Légère*'.

collection) the unit had adopted a most unusual colour—brown coat and breeches of Light infantry style, green collar and cuffs, white piping, yellow epaulettes, white metal eagle shako plate, yellow shako bands and yellow-tipped green plume (*chasseurs*), yellow (*voltigeurs*) or red plume (*carabiniers*). A further distinction was the use of a 'Corsican' cartridge box (*giberne à la Corse*), which was worn at the front of the waist belt, with only one shoulder belt (over the right) supporting the combined sabre and bayonet frog.

Weapons and Equipment

The weapons and equipment carried by the Light infantry in many ways resembled those of the Line, as detailed in MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*: e.g. the knapsack, cartridge box and belt, and the unofficial impedimenta carried on campaign such as canteens, etc., remained standard virtually throughout the period, with only minor variations in design and measurement. In other respects, however, weaponry and equipment varied in accordance with the theoretically different role of Light infantry.

In 1786 the *chasseurs* were armed with sabre, bayonet and a musket which was some 5.4cm shorter than that of the Line; company officers also carried muskets, and all officers a distinctive sabre.

From this period equipment followed that of the Line, except that all companies were armed with the short sabre, which was generally restricted to the élite companies of the Line; Light infantry carried the sabre on a belt over the right shoulder (the cartridge box belt being over the left), with the bayonet scabbard carried in a combined frog with the sabre. *Voltigeurs* were armed with the sabre from their creation until a directive of 7 October 1807 ordered that in future the sabre was to be carried only by *carabiniers*, NCOs and drummers; in fact, however, it appears that this order had limited effect, and that the majority of *voltigeurs* and *chasseurs* retained their sabres. Sword knots were usually red for *carabiniers*, green with red trimming or green for *chasseurs*, and in combinations of yellow, red and green for *voltigeurs*. Illustrations of the post-1812 uniform suggest that some *chasseurs* at least had

ceased to carry the sabre, using a single shoulder belt to support the cartridge box and the bayonet scabbard in the manner of fusiliers of the Line.

The cartridge box was like that carried by the Line, but usually with a large brass hunting horn badge affixed to the flap, though regimental patterns existed, including the apparently common use of cartridge boxes without badges, or with brass grenades with or without horns for *carabiniers*. On campaign white fabric covers were used as by the Line, bearing black painted horn and/or regimental, battalion or company identification.

Officers were armed and equipped like those of the Line, with waist belts popular in place of the shoulder belt, as already described; while many carried the *epée* of the Line, curved sabres were popular as they reinforced the 'light cavalry' appearance which many Light infantrymen attempted to emulate.

Light infantry carried the ordinary musket of *An IX/XIII* pattern, with iron fittings and a white leather sling; some 151.5cm long (barrel 113.7cm), its calibre was 17.5mm and weight 4.375kg. However, it is likely that greater use was made of the *An IX/XIII* Dragoon musket than by the Line, in which it was restricted to *voltigeurs*; being shorter (141.7cm) and lighter (4.275kg) than the ordinary musket, it was considered more suitable for those whose duties involved (theoretically) more service as skirmishers and in open order. Some Dragoon-pattern muskets, carried by élite companies, had brass fittings instead of the usual iron.

The 1804 model eagle finial for the battalion standards; the original model cast in solid bronze in six sections at the Thomire workshops from the design by Chaudet. (Musée de l'Empéri)

Regiments of Light Infantry

A brief resumé of the services of each regiment is listed below; names in CAPITAL letters indicate battle honours borne on the 1812 'Eagles', these restricted to actions in which Napoleon commanded. Due to the practice of battalions serving apart, it was possible for elements of a regiment to be in action simultaneously in, say, Germany and Spain. '1812' indicates to which Corps of the **Grande Armée** a regiment was assigned in the Russian campaign, and '1815' to which Corps of the **Armée du Nord** in the Waterloo campaign. 'Spain' refers to the Peninsular War in general, including service in Portugal and France.

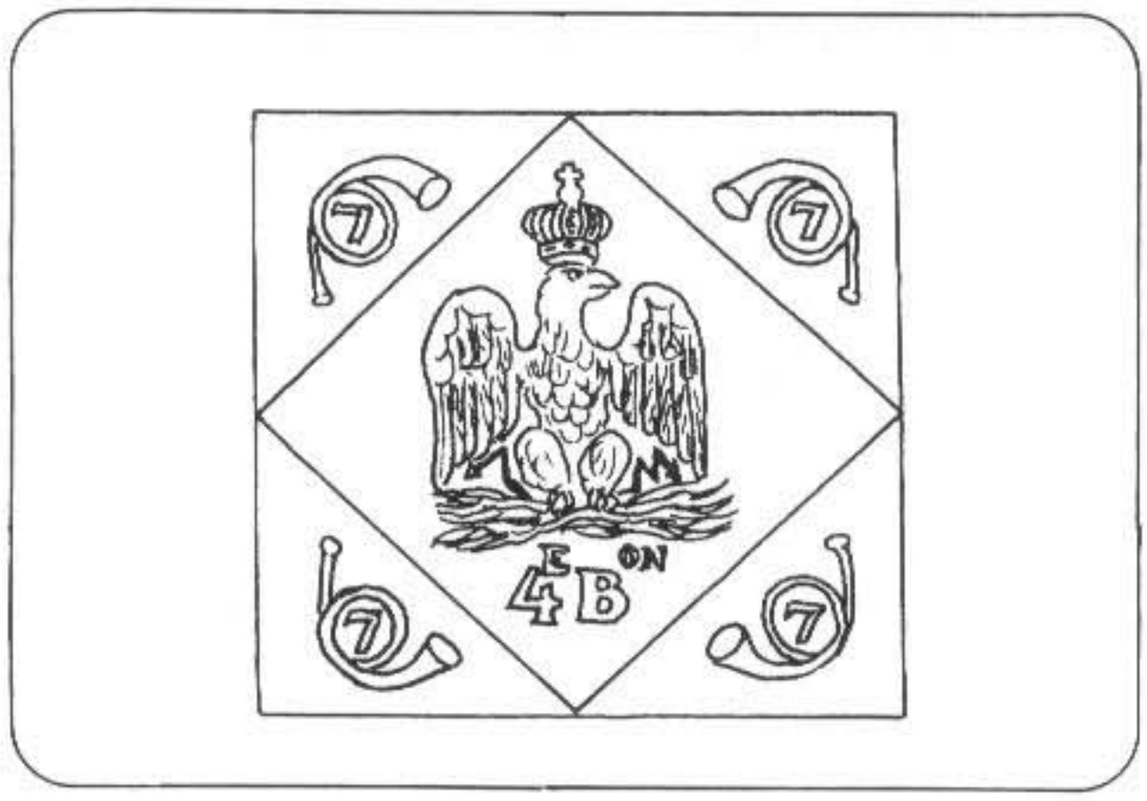
1st Léger: Spain (Gerona, Tarragona, Castalla); Germany 1813; France 1814; 1815, II Corps.

2nd Léger: Austerlitz (detachment in Oudinot's Div.), FRIEDLAND; Spain (Rolica, Vimiero, Corunna, Busaco, Sabugal, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive); France 1814 (Paris); 1815, II Corps.

3rd Léger: Austerlitz (detachment in Oudinot's Div.); ECKMUHL, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Gerona, Castalla); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig); France 1814.

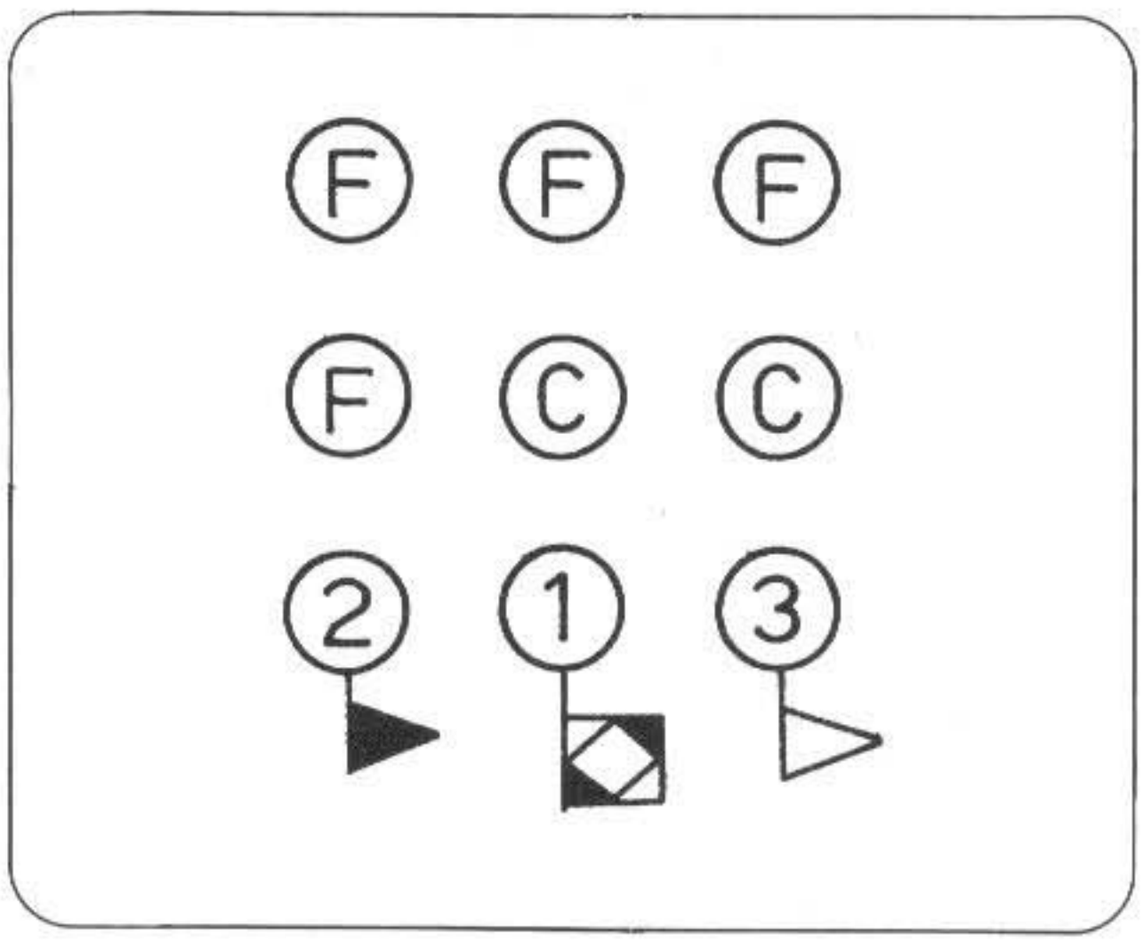
4th Léger: ULM, FRIEDLAND; Spain (Rolica, Vimiero, Corunna, Busaco, Sabugal, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Dresden, Leipzig); France 1814 (Champaubert, Montmirail); 1815, II Corps.

5th Léger: WAGRAM; Spain (Saragossa, Tarragona, Nivelle, Nive); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Dresden,



Fanion **of the 4th Bn., 7th Léger, 1812, sometimes attributed (erroneously) to the 7th Polish Line. White centre bearing gold eagle and inscription, alternate red (top R, bottom L) and blue corner triangles bearing silver horns and numerals.**

Leipzig); France 1814 (St. Dizier); 1815, VI Corps.
6th Léger: ULM, JENA, EYLAU, FRIEDLAND, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Busaco, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Nivelle, Nive, Toulouse); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig); 1815, IV Corps.
7th Léger: JENA, EYLAU, ECKMUHL, WAGRAM; 1812, I Corps (Smolensk, Borodino, Berezina); Germany 1813 (Dresden).
8th Léger: WAGRAM; Spain; 1812, IV Corps (Borodino, Berezina); Germany 1813 (Leipzig); 1815, IV Corps.
9th Léger: ULM, FRIEDLAND, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Talavera, Barrosa, Fuentes de Onoro, Badajos 1812, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Leipzig); France 1814 (Montmirail);



Escort to an 'Eagle'. Key: 1 = *Premier Porte-Aigle*, **2** = *Deuxième Porte-Aigle*, **3** = *Troisième Porte-Aigle*, **C** = *caporal*, **F** = *fourrier*.

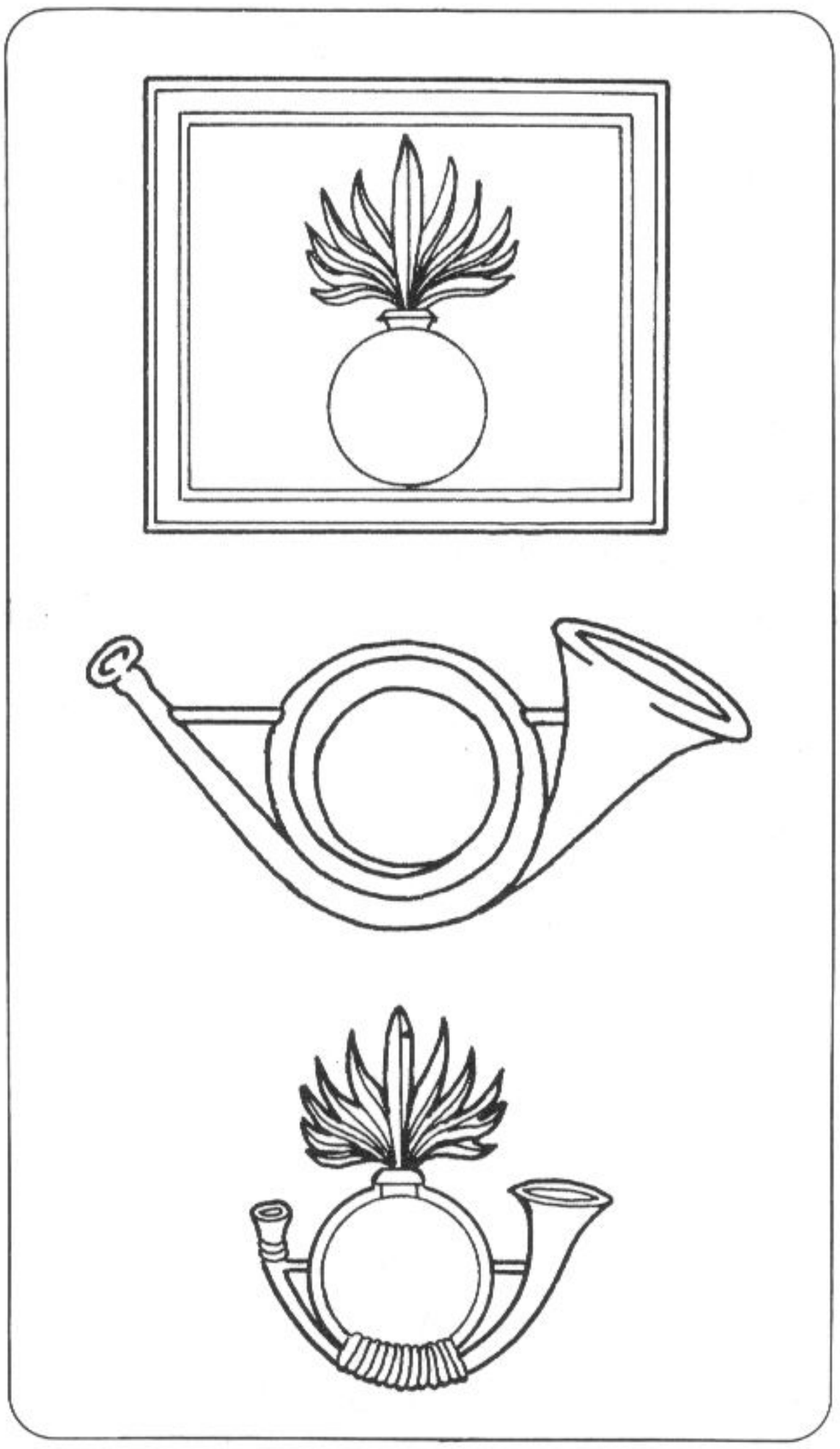
1815, IV Corps.
10th Léger: ULM, AUSTERLITZ, JENA, EYLAU, ECKMUHL, ESSLING, WAGRAM; 1812, IX Corps; Germany 1812 (Dresden, Leipzig); France 1814 (Montmirail).
11th Léger: Raised 1811 from Tirailleurs Corses, Valaison Bn. and Piedmontese troops, inheriting honours ULM, AUSTERLITZ, JENA, EYLAU, ESSLING, WAGRAM; 1812, II Corps (Berezina); Germany 1813 (Dresden, Leipzig); 1815, II Corps.
12th Léger: Austerlitz (detachment in Oudinot's Div.); FRIEDLAND; Spain (Vimiero, Talavera, Albuera, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive, Toulouse); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig); 1815, II Corps.
13th Léger: AUSTERLITZ, JENA, EYLAU, ECKMUHL, WAGRAM; 1812, I Corps (Smolensk, Borodino, Berezina); Germany 1813 (Dresden); 1815, I Corps.
14th Léger: WAGRAM; Spain (Castalla); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig).
15th Léger: AUSTERLITZ, ECKMUHL, WAGRAM; Spain (Vimiero); 1812, I Corps (Smolensk, Borodino); Germany 1813; 1815, III Corps.
16th Léger: JENA, EYLAU, FRIEDLAND, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Talavera, Fuentes de Onoro, Albuera, Tarifa, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive); Germany 1813 (Lützen, Dresden, Leipzig); France 1814 (Champaubert, Paris).
17th Léger: ULM, AUSTERLITZ, Jena, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Saragossa, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Nivelle, Nive); 1812, I Corps; Germany 1813 (Leipzig); France 1814 (Bar-sur-Aube, Arcis-sur-Aube, St. Dizier).
18th Léger: ULM, WAGRAM; Spain; 1812, IV Corps (Borodino, Berezina); Germany 1813 (Bautzen, Leipzig); France 1814.
19th Léger: Raised 1814; France 1814.
20th Léger: Vacant number.
21st Léger: JENA, ESSLING,WAGRAM; Spain (Fuentes de Onoro, Albuera, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive, Toulouse); France 1814.
22nd Léger: WAGRAM; 1812, XI Corps; Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Leipzig).
23rd Léger: WAGRAM; Spain; Germany 1813 (Lützen, Bautzen, Dresden, Leipzig); France 1814 (Champaubert, Montmirail, Paris).
24th Léger: ULM, AUSTERLITZ, JENA, EYLAU, ECKMUHL, Friedland, ESSLING, WAGRAM; 1812, III Corps (Smolensk, Borodino); Germany 1813 (Bautzen, Dresden, Leipzig); France 1814.

Non-regulation, silvered shako plate of 'sunburst' form, worn by some Light troops; regimentally numbered plates of this type recorded for the 3rd, 30th and 130th Line. Asymmetrical 'rays' are found on some extant examples.

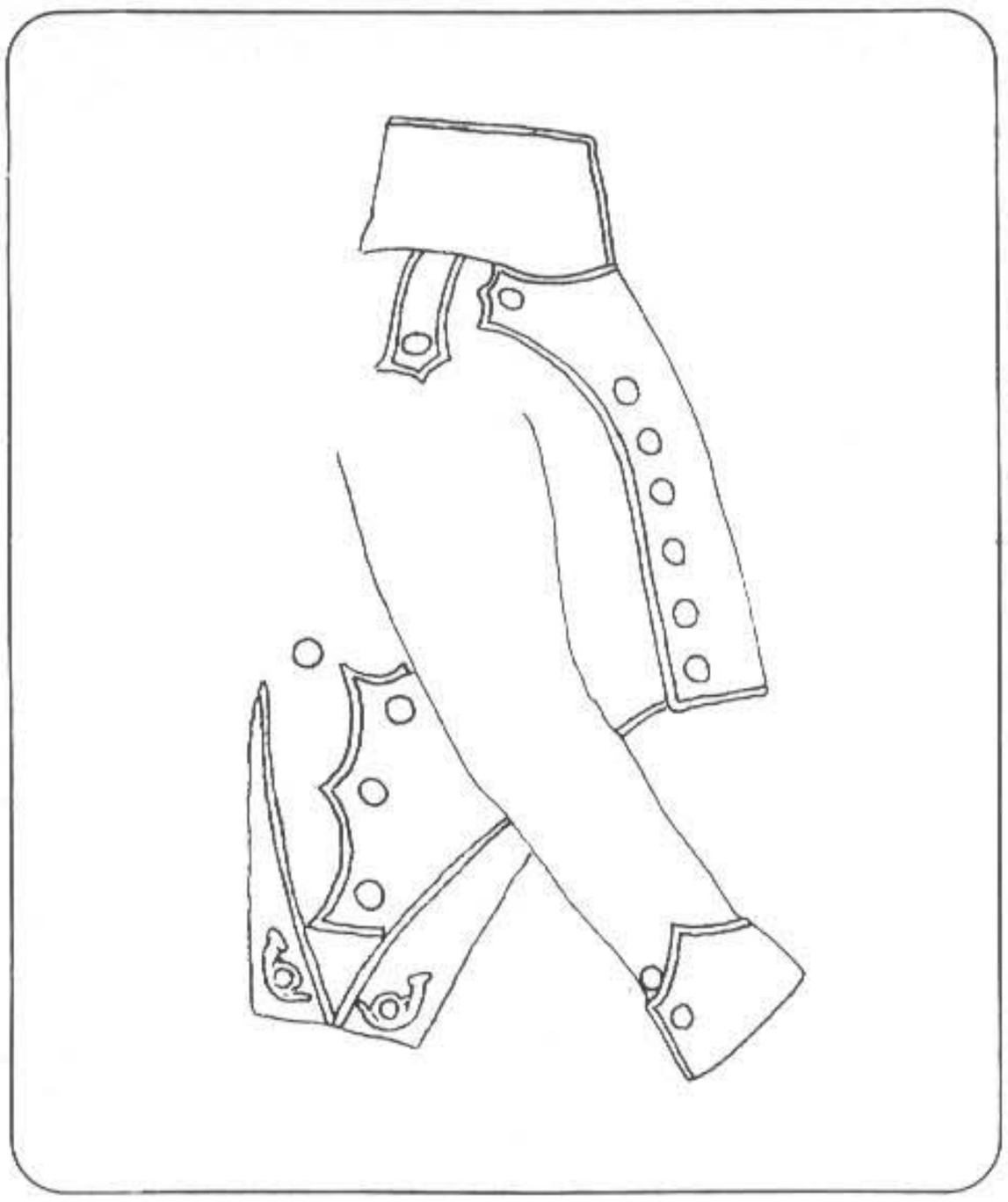
25th Léger: ULM, JENA, EYLAU, FRIEDLAND, ESSLING, WAGRAM. Spain (Busaco, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Toulouse); France 1814.
26th Léger: ULM, AUSTERLITZ, JENA, EYLAU, ECKMUHL, ESSLING, WAGRAM; 1812, II Corps; Germany 1813.
27th Léger: AUSTERLITZ, JENA, FRIEDLAND, ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Talavera, Barrosa, Fuentes de Onoro, Tarifa, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive); Germany 1813.
28th Léger: Austerlitz (detachment in Oudinot's Div.); ESSLING, WAGRAM; Spain (Fuentes de Onoro, Albuera, Badajos 1812, Vittoria, Nivelle, Nive).
29th Léger: Raised 1811; 1812, IX Corps; Germany 1813.
30th Léger: Vacant number.
31st Léger: Raised 1803; Austerlitz (detachment in Oudinot's Div.); Spain (Corunna, Busaco, Sabugal, Fuentes de Onoro, Salamanca, Nivelle, Nive).
32nd Léger: Raised 1808 as 33rd; disbanded and re-formed 1810; Spain (Gerona, Busaco); Germany 1813.
33rd Léger: Raised 1808; 1812, I Corps; Germany 1813.
34th Léger: Raised 1811 from auxiliary bns. in Spain (Ciudad Rodrigo, Nivelle, Nive).
35th Léger: Formed 1812 from Mediterranean Regt.; Germany 1813.
36th Léger: Formed 1812 from *Régt. de Belle-Isle*; Germany 1813.
37th Léger: Raised 1812 from reserve companies; Germany 1813.

The Plates

A1: Chasseur, Légion des Allobroges, 1792
This figure illustrates the original green *chasseur* uniform with crested 'Tarleton' helmet. The *Légion des Allobroges* was formed on 13 August 1792, comprising 14 companies of light infantry, three of dragoons and one of artillery, and was broken up in the following year. The cavalry wore the same



(A) Waist belt plate, officers of *carabiniers*, as shown (for example) by the Otto depiction of the 9th Léger. (B) Cartridge box plate, *chasseurs*. (C) Cartridge box plate, *voltigeurs* of Light infantry, 1804; similar plates were used by *carabiniers*.



1812 pattern *habit-veste*: **insignia for a** *chasseur* **of Light infantry.**

uniform as that illustrated except for red-laced hussar boots and a cavalry sabre, and the artillery's only distinction was white leather equipment.

A2: Chasseur, Paris National Guard, 1792
In 1789 the Paris National Guard comprised 60 'battalions' (actually companies) organised in six 'divisions', each 'division' having a company of grenadiers and one of *chasseurs*. The latter wore shorter coats, blue breeches, light infantry gaiters and a girdle on to which hooked a brace of pistols; they were distinguished by green or green-over-white plumes, and turnback badges of a green hunting horn and a green boat, the latter the symbol of the city.

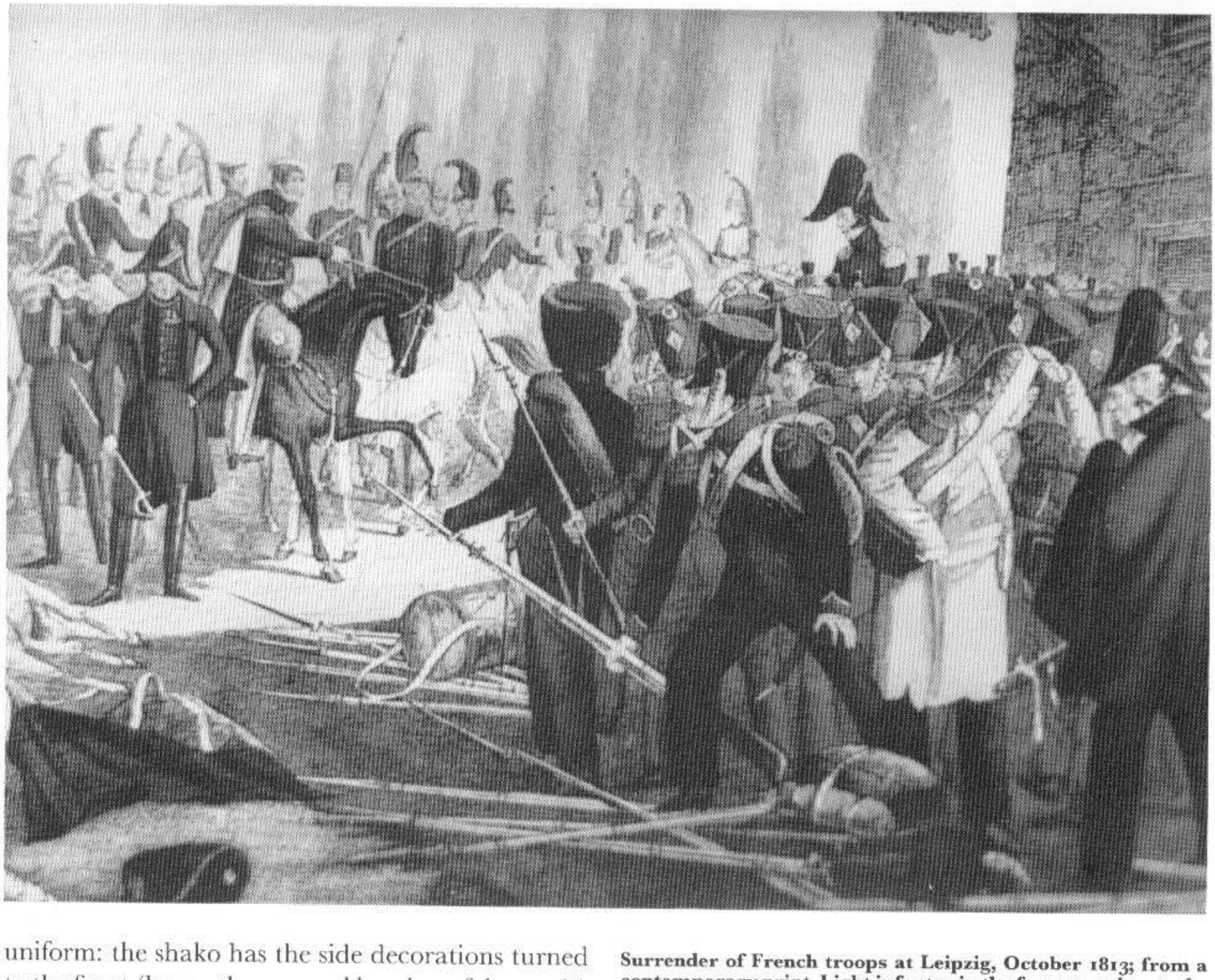
A3: Carabinier, 14th Léger, 1798–99
As described before, this figure wears the uniform of the old Légion Noire, apparently retained by the 14th Léger for some time; the *chapeau à Henri IV* is illustrated, but bicorns were also worn. It is possible that some examples of the Légion Noire's original uniform were worn by the 14th, of similar colouring but single-breasted, with a 'turn-down' collar and round cuffs, in Austrian style. An interesting feature of the officers' uniform was that the long tails bore vertical pockets, piped sky-blue, running the entire length of the tails and each with seven equally spaced buttons.

B1: 'Voltigeur', 14th Léger, c.1801
This figure, pre-dating the establishment of *voltigeur* companies, represents the early 'scout' section of the regiment. As noted before, the 14th appear to have worn *mirliton* caps; note also the four-button cuff flap. The 'wing' of the *mirliton* was apparently retained on the shako of the 14th's *carabiniers*, and was later adopted by the remainder of the regiment.

B2: Chasseur, 1st Léger, 1804–06
The *chasseur* illustrated wears the original shako with erect side-plume rather than the popular drooping variety the pointed cuffs were a regimental distinction.

B3: Carabinier, 1801
Taken from a contemporary picture, this figure includes a number of variations on the ordinary

1812 pattern shako plate, 1st Léger.



Surrender of French troops at Leipzig, October 1813; from a contemporary print. Light infantry in the foreground; note the use of long blue trousers, the continued use of the pre-1812 uniform, the wearing of *chasseur* epaulettes on the greatcoat, and a busby worn by an officer.

uniform: the shako has the side decorations turned to the front (hence the unusual looping of the cords) with the peak re-affixed; the coatee has pointed cuffs and (unusually) three buttons below the right-hand lapel, as for Line infantry; the waistcoat is the popular double-breasted variety, and the breeches have a red stripe.

C1: Voltigeur, 9th Léger, 1806

This regimental *voltigeur* uniform includes unusual yellow cuff flaps and a shako bearing the regimental lozenge plate; note also the piping on the front flap of the breeches and the double-breasted waistcoat.

The 9th Léger was known as '*L'Incomparable*' after heroic service at Marengo, Desaix falling at their head. Ney's favourite regiment, the 9th was part of a brigade assailed by five times its own number of Austrians at Haslach, near Ulm: Gen. Dupont made an immediate attack; five times did the 9th Léger take and re-take Jüningen village with the bayonet, losing six 'Eagle'-bearers in the process, which led Napoleon to remark that there was nothing which could shake this regiment. This was proven at Mohringen in January 1807 when, surprised in winter quarters, the 9th was one of a number of regiments involved in furious hand-to-hand fighting; their 'Eagle' being lost and re-taken four times until finally lost, whereupon (in Napoleon's over glorifying prose), the 9th, 'animated with an inconceivable ardour, precipitated themselves on the enemy and routed them and recovered their 'Eagle'. In actual fact, the broken head of the 'Eagle' was found in a Russian ammunition waggon, was hastily re-mounted upon a hop-pole, and led the regiment in their successful counter-attack.

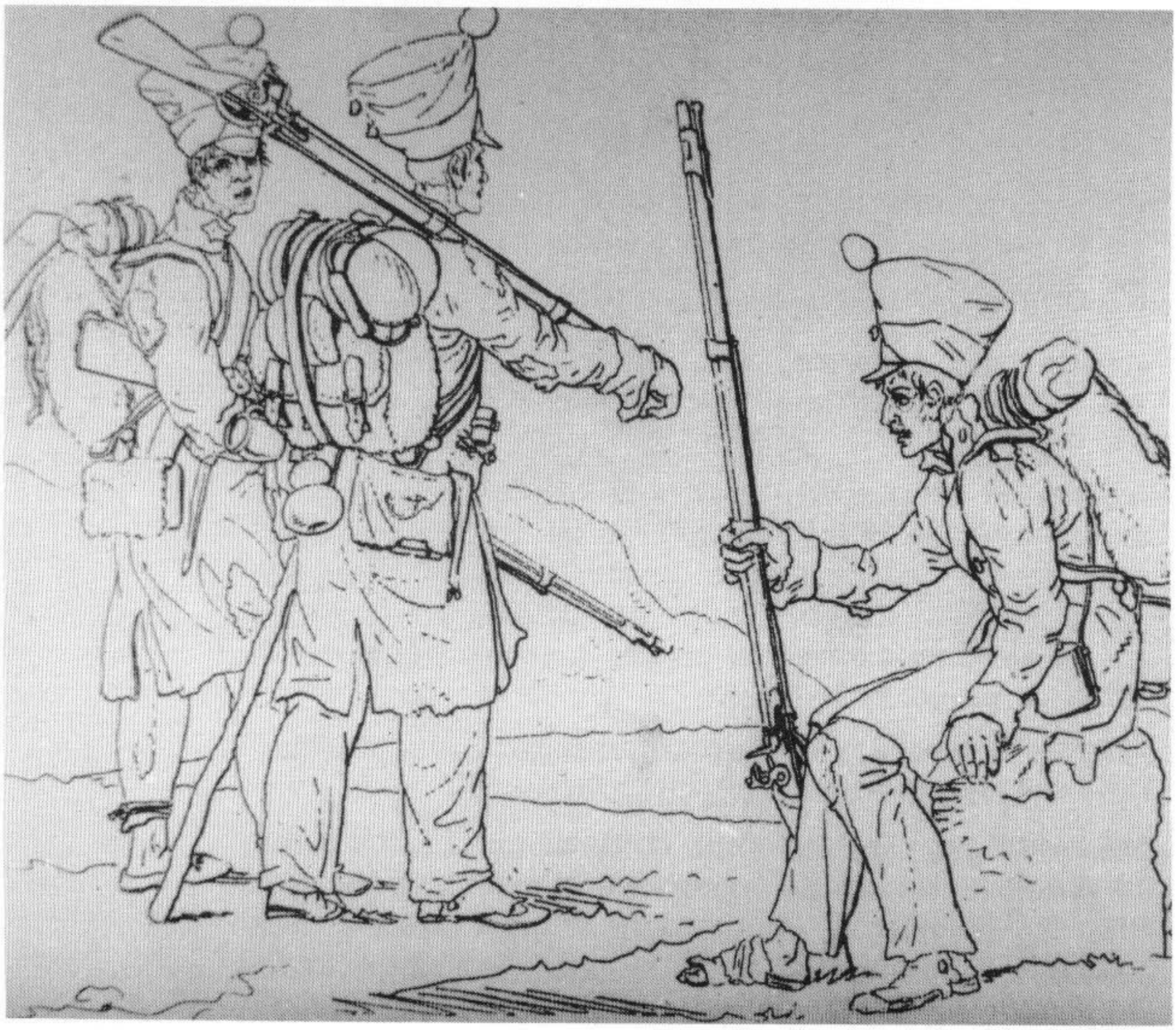
C2: Sergeant-Major, Tirailleurs Corses, 1805
As noted before, this figure wears the conjectural green-faced uniform apparently in use between 1805 and 1808; the silver intermixing of the epaulettes and sword knot were distinctions of rank, like the sleeve bars. The shako cords are unbraided and hang at the front of the cap, a style not uncommon.

C3: Carabinier, 14th Léger, 1808
This figure wears the uniform already described, as used in Corfu, with the waistcoat replacing the coatee, and the distinctive shako with wing attached.

C4: Carabinier, walking-out dress, 1806
The *carabinier* in *tenue de ville* retains the old shako with detachable peak, side-cockade and drooping feather plume; he wears long trousers and flimsy shoes, showing the stockings, and the white cravat, often with shirt-collar protruding above, used to enhance the appearance of *tenue de ville* but not allowed in other orders of dress.

D1: Captain, 10th Léger, 1810
This typical officers' uniform includes the popular green waist belt and sabre frog, and bicorn hat. Col. Pouset of the 10th Léger typified the traditional

Light infantry on campaign, c.1814; print after Leopold Bayer. Note the different styles of collar patch on the greatcoat; the full campaign equipment carried by the central figure includes a fabric cover on the cartridge box, bearing a stencilled hunting horn.



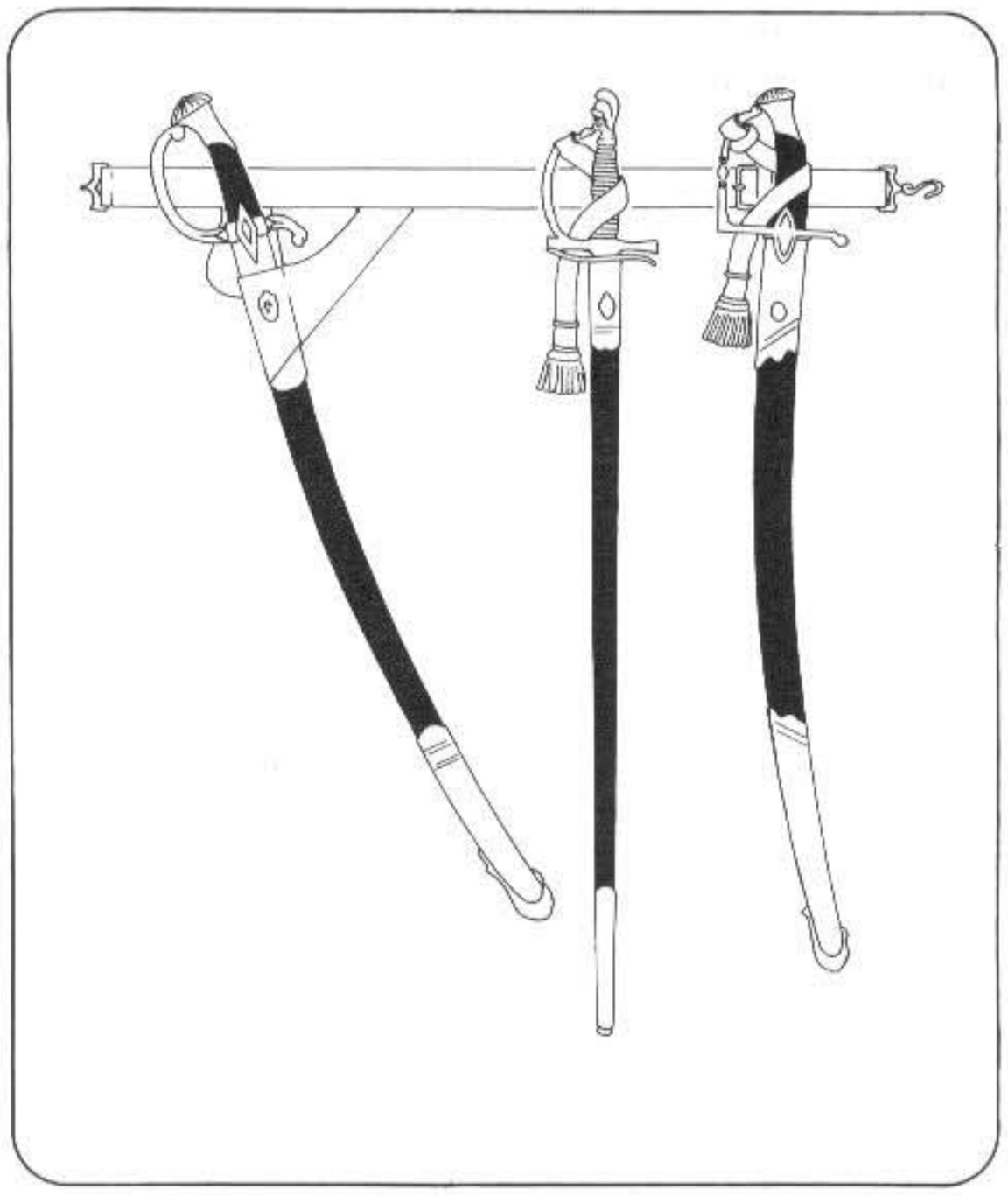
light infantry spirit of *élan*; when Gen. Sainte-Hilaire was proposing to withdraw his brigade from a position scarcely tenable at Austerlitz, Pouset cried out, 'General, don't pull us back! Retreat one step, and we're destroyed. There's only one honourable way out—go bald-headed at whoever is in front of us, and above all don't give the enemy time to see just how few we are!' They did, and won. The 10th was not so fortunate at Eylau, however; blundering onto a Russian battery in the snowstorm, it was shattered by canister and immediately afterwards ridden down by Russian cavalry, virtually ceasing to exist in three minutes.

D2: Voltigeur lieutenant, 1809
This officer wears the hussar busby favoured by some *voltigeur* (and a few *carabinier*) companies, reinforcing the light cavalry appearance of the sabre and hussar boots.

D3: Major, 6th Léger, 1810
This figure wears the major's rank distinctions of plume, and epaulettes with gold straps. The 6th Léger was the unit employed by Ney to lead the attack over the bridge at Elchingen; with the 69th Line they stormed the town in bitter street-fighting, so successfully that they won for Ney his title 'Duc d'Elchingen', and were specially paraded to witness Napoleon's public congratulation of his marshal. At Durrenstein one of the *Porte-Aigles* of the 6th Léger, bearing his standard, joined Major Henriot of the 100th Line in his valiant but hopeless attempt to cut his way free from a host of Russians, as described in MAA 141, *Napoleon's Line Infantry*.

D4: Carabinier officer, 9th Léger, 1809
As described before, Otto's figure illustrates the *carabinier* cap with an unusual rear patch, red with a blue cross and encircled by silver lace; another peculiarity was that apparently the officers of the 9th at this period had four-button cuff flaps while the other ranks had only three buttons.

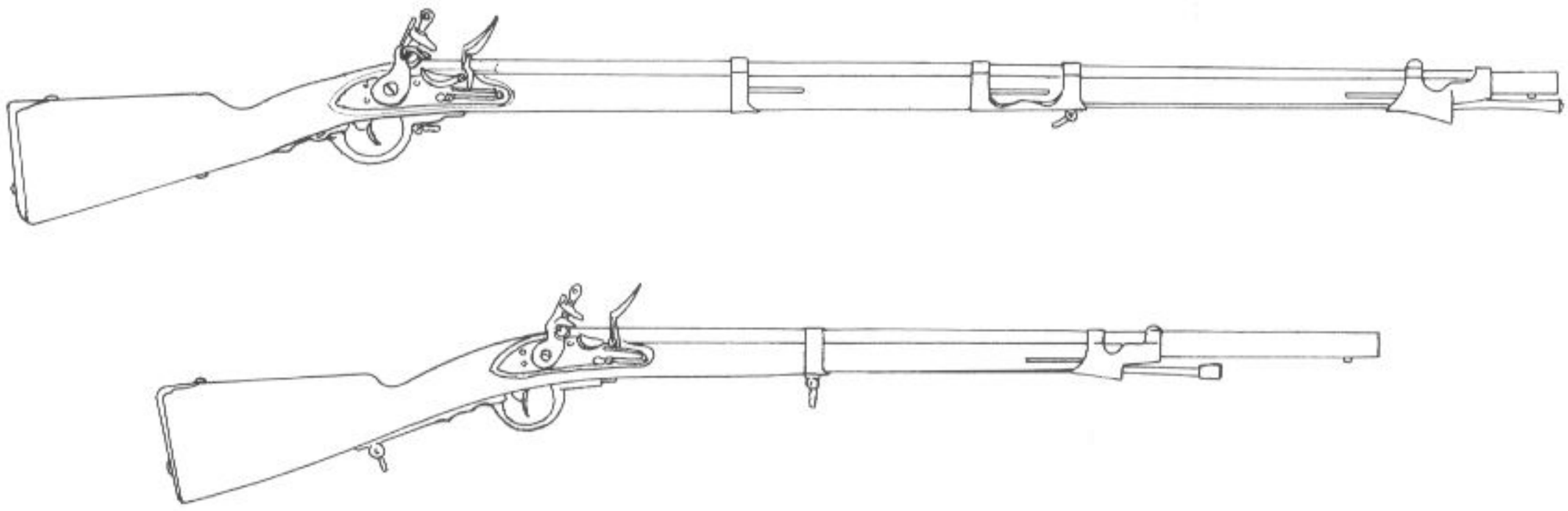
E1: Drum-major, 17th Léger, full dress, 1807
This shows the magnificent Polish-style uniform described before; the (presumably) Spanish artist 'El Guil' shows a modified service dress, with plume and cords removed, a white waistcoat and unlaced yellow breeches.



Officer's *epée* flanked by two typical patterns of sabre, one suspended from the frog of a waist belt.

Many of the 17th seem to have been archetypal light infantrymen in their attitudes: one wrote of the Austrians in 1806, 'I don't know what to make of these people; they pray night and day, yet in this town there are nine hundred girls—who offer no resistance!' A *carabinier* of the 17th raised Napoleon's flagging spirits before Austerlitz. Passing the *carabinier*, a sentry, Napoleon muttered to himself that 'Those Russian b----s think they can make us swallow anything'. 'Not on your life!' roared the *carabinier*, 'not if we have anything to do with it!' A similar attitude of defiance was exhibited by Corporal André Colomb, who led the escape of 88 men of the 17th from Spanish custody in July 1813; for six weeks the intrepid band, totally without supplies, made their way over the Pyrenees, fighting and evading re-capture, until they rejoined their unit without having lost a man. Colomb was appointed a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur, and seems to typify Napoleon's remark that every man carried a marshal's bâton in his knapsack.

E2: Musician, 15th Léger, 1807
Oriental costume was adopted by the percussion



(Top) Dragon musket, as used by some *voltigeur* companies and Light infantry; slightly shorter and lighter than the ordinary infantry musket, it was believed more suitable for skirmishing duties. (Bottom) Carbine (*mousqueton*) of *An IX/XIII* pattern, as normally carried by *sapeurs* of Line and Light infantry. Both are reproduced to $\frac{1}{10}$th scale.

sections of some bands, if the musicians were of Negro or Levantine birth. The man illustrated has a *chapeau chinois* or 'jingling johnny', an instrument hung with bells.

In the hand-to-hand fighting around Tellnitz at Austerlitz, the 15th (composed largely of young, untried men) lost their cohesion until *chef de bataillon* Dulong dismounted and held up the 'Eagle', crying, 'I stay here; let me see if you will abandon your Eagle and your commander'. His leadership caused them to resume the fight, during which Sergeant-majors Broudes and Deschamps, each with a standard, used them as clubs: 'these two heroes each knocked down a number of the enemy by the weight of their Eagles, and thus managed to save these standards'.

E3: Chasseur drummer, 27th Léger, 1809
This figure wears the distinctive sky-blue of the 27th's musicians.

F1: Sapeur, 8th Léger, 1809
This figure wears a spectacular version of *sapeur* uniform, including the usual accoutrements of apron, gauntlets, axe and case, a straight-bladed sabre imitating an antique 'glaive' with a brass cockerel-head pommel and, most unusually, a blunderbuss instead of the usual carbine carried by *sapeurs*. Busbies were popular, to emphasise the light cavalry style of dress, and full beards were mandatory.

F2: Cantinière, 15th Léger, 1809
Most battalions possessed a *vivandière* or *cantinière*, a sutleress who accompanied the unit on campaign, selling alcohol, food and other trifles to supplement the men's rations. Often married to an NCO of the regiment, the *cantinières* were usually adopted by the battalions as mascots, and earned all the respect accorded them. Accompanying the unit into action, the *cantinières* performed countless acts of heroism, like those of the 26th Léger and 4th Line at Austerlitz, handing out cups of brandy and saying 'pay me tomorrow', in the knowledge that many of their customers would die before the debt could be repaid. Many *cantinières* adopted their own design of 'uniform', and apparently in the 15th Léger this was styled upon that of the *tête de colonne*; universal accoutrements were the apron and decorated spirit barrel slung from a shoulder belt.

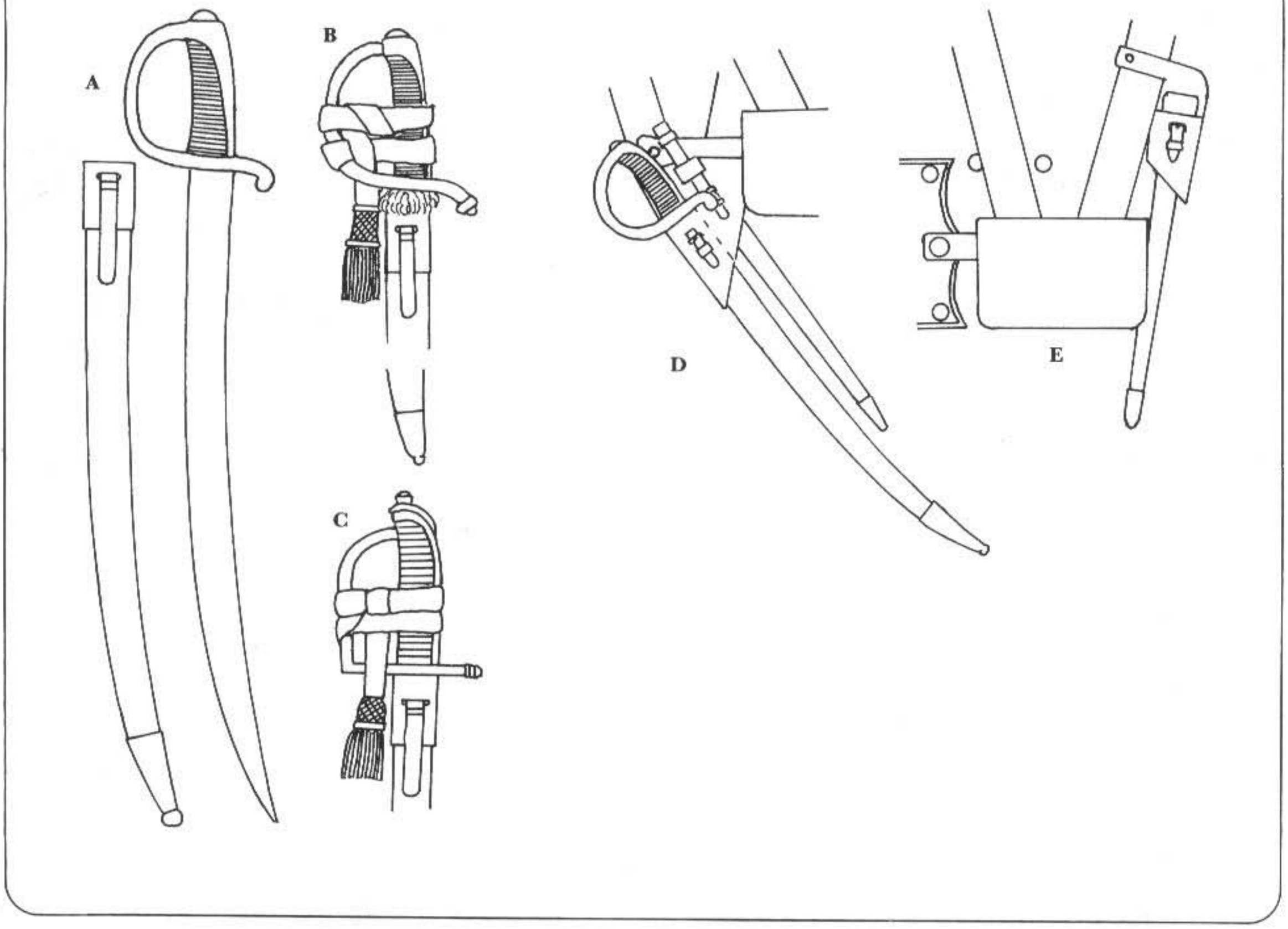
Job drawing of a *tambour-major* of Light infantry in the official Imperial livery (left); and, far more interesting, a *carabinier* in full campaign dress and equipment. Note shako cover with a painted '3' over a *carabinier* grenade insignia; company epaulettes on the *capote*, together with service chevrons on the left sleeve; messtin on the knap-sack; what appears to be a fife in a case slung on a cord; the double frog for the sabre and bayonet of élite company men; and the pouch, with its small strap buttoning to the rear of the coat, its rolled fatigue cap underneath, and its white flap cover. Note also very loose campaign trousers at the ankle. (National Army Museum)

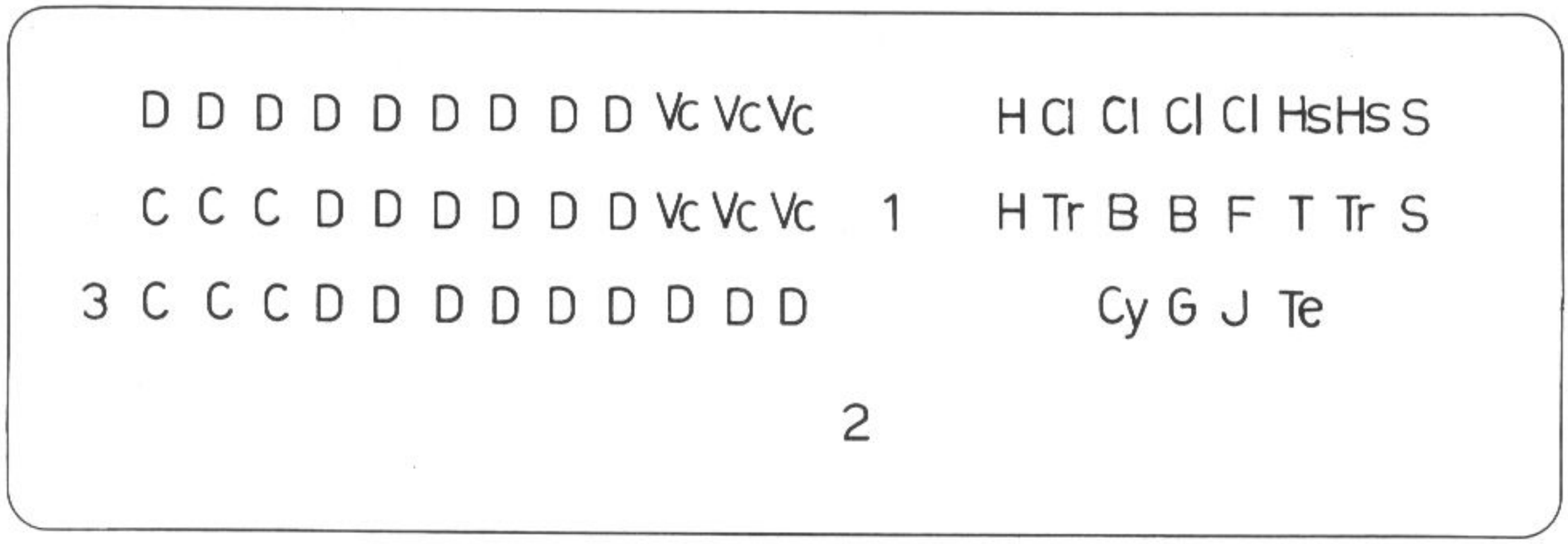
F3: Voltigeur, 2nd Léger, 1809
From a contemporary illustration, this figure appears to wear a version of the 1806 shako, without chinscales and with diagonal cords; it would appear that it was usual for all ranks at one time to wear moustaches and small 'Imperial' beards.

The independent spirit of the Light infantry, as exemplified by the 2nd Demi-Brigade Légère, could lead to conflict with other regiments; in 1798, for example, the 2nd was moved from Avignon to avoid open warfare between themselves and the 9th Demi-Brigade de Ligne, after the 9th's fencing-master had been killed in a street-fight!

G1: Porte-Aigle, 7th Léger, 1809
The *Porte-Aigle* illustrated wears *carabinier* uniform and is armed with the pistols and halberd of his appointment, the latter for the 7th apparently having a plain red pennon. As noted before, the silver chevrons used by the 7th would appear to be a regimental variation upon the regulation rank-markings. The 2nd and 3rd *Porte-Aigles*, veterans whose illiteracy alone had prevented their promotion to higher ranks, occupied the most hazardous position in the regiment, along with the other memebers of the 'Eagle'-escort: the *1er Porte-Aigle* (the lieutenant who bore the flag), two corporals and four *fourriers*. For the 7th, the 2nd and 3rd *Porte-Aigles* in 1809 were *Carabinier* Bernard Desplat and *Chasseur* Corporal Jacques Durand, of 16 and 17 years' service respectively.

The *sabre-briquet*: (A) *An XI* pattern, characterised by cast-brass hilt with 28-ribbed grip, with scabbard; (B) *An IX* pattern, with 32-ribbed grip and shaped quillon-finial; shown with sword knot, *cravate* (fabric pompon between hilt and scabbard to prevent sword from becoming jammed), and smaller scabbard-chape; (C) 1790-style sabre, based upon the 1767-pattern, with typical angular guard; shown by Hoffman in use as late as 1804 by Light infantry. Infantry equipment: (D) *sabre-briquet* and bayonet in combined frog; (E) bayonet suspended from cartridge box belt, as used by fusiliers of the Line infantry and (latterly) *chasseurs* of Light infantry.





Regimental band and massed corps of drums of a unit of three battalions: a typical array. Key: 1 = Bandmaster (*chef de musique*), **2 = Drum-major** (*tambour-major*), **3 = *Tambour-maître*, D = drummer of** *chasseurs*, **C = drummer of** *carabiniers*, **Vc =** *voltigeur cornet*, **H = horn, Cl = clarinet, Hs = hautbois, S = serpent, Te = triangle, Tr = trombone, B = bassoon, F = flute, T = trumpet, Cy = cymbals, G = base drum** (*grosse caisse*), **J = 'jigling johnny'** (*chapeau chinois*).

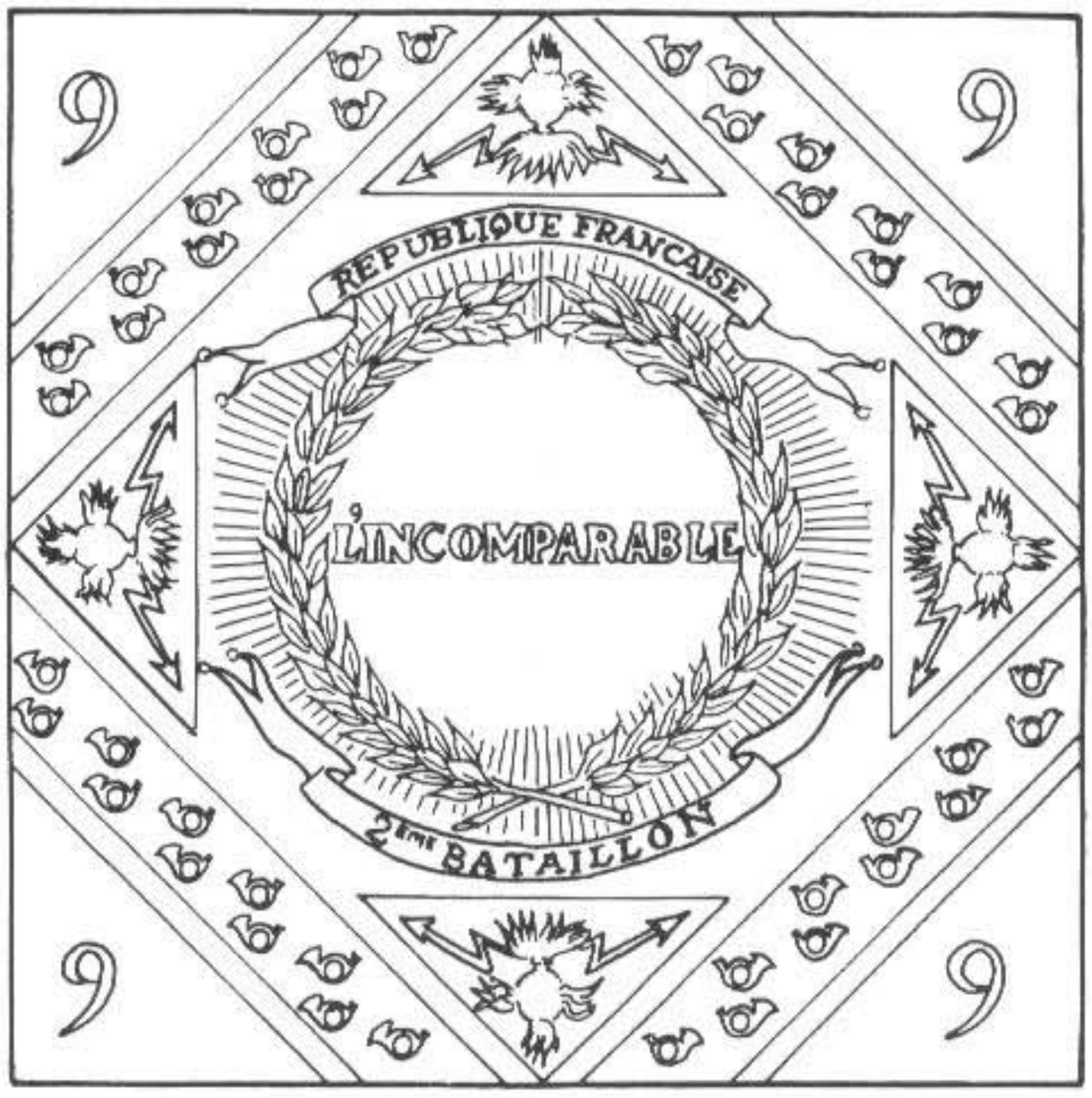
An example of the ferocity of the fighting which occurred around 'Eagles' is given by the 24th Léger at Austerlitz, where the regiment was caught by Russian cavalry and almost annihilated (126 killed and 364 wounded); the 'Eagle' was lost under a mass of falling bodies and only recovered the next day by the 4th Line while they were searching for their own 'Eagle', lost in the same disaster. The 24th's 'Eagle' was again lost in Spain, at Baylen; but it was rescued by Capt. Lanusse of the 24th, who escaped from a prison hulk at Cadiz, stole the 'Eagle' from where it was displayed as a trophy, and evaded capture until he rejoined the French army. Lanusse was promoted to *chef de bataillon* of the 8th Line as a reward, but in that capacity was slain by the British 87th at Barrosa.

G2: Sergeant Porte-Fanion, 8th Léger, 1809
Attached to the sergeant's musket is a *fanion*, a company marker flag; these were of varied design. Here the green flag with yellow edge and central grenade badge apparently belonged to the 8th's *carabiniers*, whose uniform the sergeant wears, including a non-regulation eagle-on-crescent shako plate.

G3: Chasseur Cornet, 12th Léger, 1810–12
Cornets (hornists) were not always restricted to *voltigeur* companies; except for the lace on the facings and the swallows'-nest wings, this figure wears a uniform like that of the ordinary *chasseurs*, though a companion illustration to that upon which this is based shows red pointed cuffs instead of the regulation type worn by the *cornet*. Though not in classic Light infantry style, round-topped gaiters were not uncommon.

H1: Chasseur officer, 7th Léger, 1812–14
The officer illustrated wears the 1812 regulation uniform, except that the earlier pattern of cuff has been retained in the new dress.

Epée of an officer of the 6th Léger, finely displayed on a green leather waist belt and frog with silver wire embroidery set in from both sides. Note the regimental escutcheon set into the grip. (Musée de l'Empéri)



Colour, 9th Léger, 1802–4. White ground with red corners bearing gold numerals '9'. Green bands bearing gold hunting horns; blue triangles bearing gold four-flamed grenades. Central device comprised gold letting '*L'Incomparable*' upon a gold sunburst; green laurel wreath, white scrolls with gold lettering. Reverse was similar except for lettering, which within the wreath read: '*Le Premier Consul*|*a la 9ème Demi-Brigade*|*Légère le 15*|*An X*'; lower scrool read: '*Valeur et Discipline*'. Dimensions: 1.76m square.

H2: Voltigeur, 10th Léger, 1812

Excepting the shako, the *voltigeur* wears regulation 1812 uniform, though he has retained the second shoulder belt and sabre. The shako has no plate but a tricolour rosette on the front; *carabiniers* wore the same cap but with red lace bands and plume.

H3: Fifer, 10th Léger, 1812

Though the uniform is in the cut of the 1812 regulations, it retains the unique regimental colouring with red-and-white lace; only the band of the 10th, apparently, adopted the green 'Imperial' uniform. The shako bears the same rosette as figure H2.

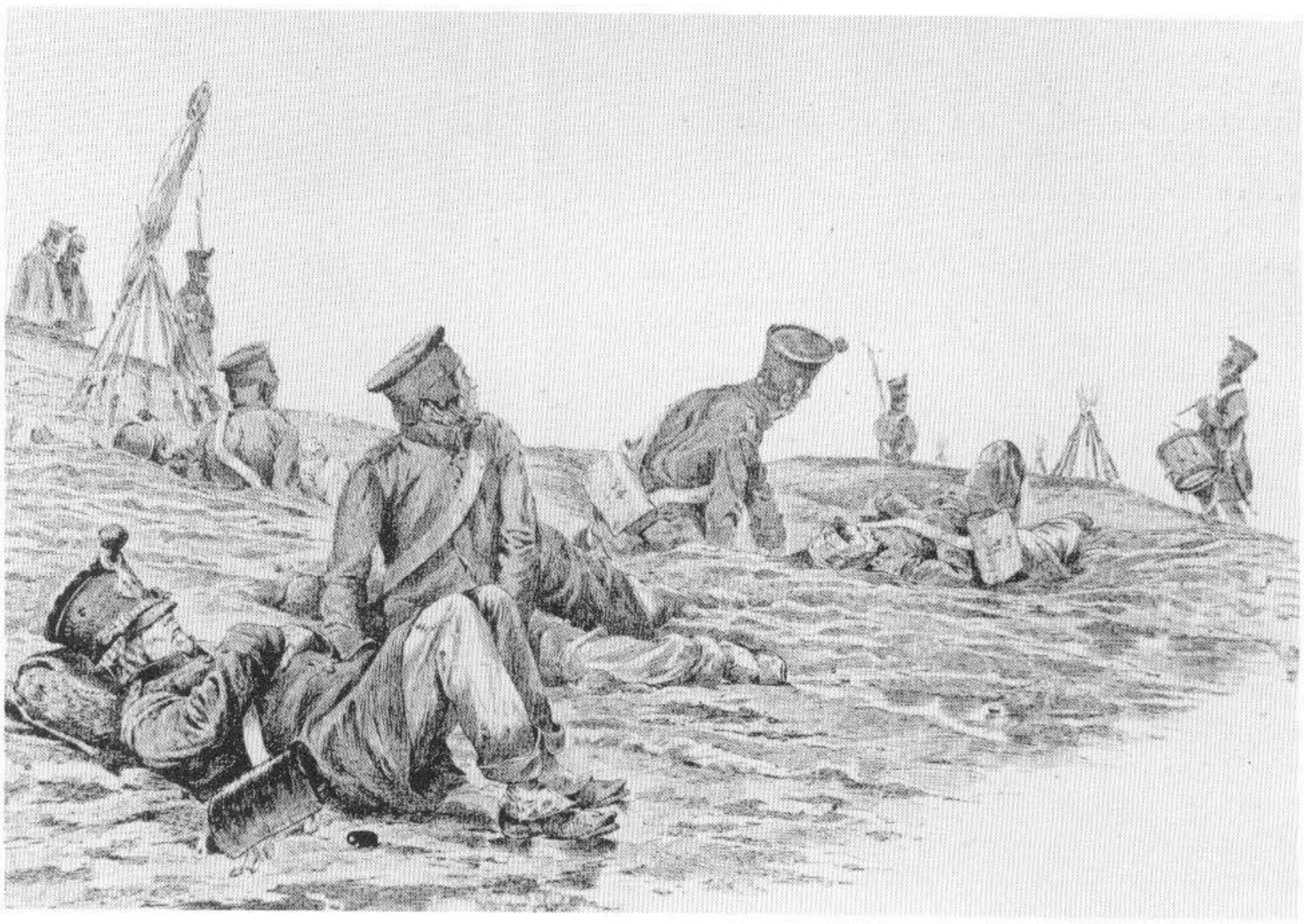
H4: Chasseur, 1813

This typical campaign dress includes the greatcoat (which varied in style, single- or double-breasted, from beige to tan to brown), with a red collar patch; loose trousers, covered shako and campaign equipment are worn. The man illustrated belongs to a regiment which has obeyed the order for sabres to be discontinued for *chasseurs*, the single shoulder belt supporting both the cartridge box and bayonet.

Facsimile of a Weiland drawing of a Light infantryman, c.1811. Though naive in style it shows several interesting features, including shako decorations (note the position of cords and peak-edging), and a four-button cuff flap which is piped on only two edges.

Sources

Apart from contemporary illustrations and extant items of uniform, the work of several later artists is recommended, including Lucien Rousselot (*L'Armée Française*), Albert Rigondaud ('Rigo'), J. Onfroy de Bréville ('Job') and the illustrators of the Bucquoy cards, some of which are reproduced in *Les Uniformes du Premier Empire: l'Infanterie* (Cdr. E.-L. Bucquoy, ed. Lt.Col. L.-Y. Bucquoy and G. Devatour, Paris 1979); examples of 'dress regulations' are catalogued in *Guide à l'usage des Artistes et Costumiers . . . Uniformes de l'armée française* (H. Malibran, Paris 1904, reprinted Krefeld 1972), while examples of unofficial insignia are recorded in *Aigles et Shakos du Premier Empire* (C. Blondieau, Paris 1980). Details of weaponry and tactics may be found in *Weapons and Equipment of the Napoleonic Wars* (P. J. Haythornthwaite, Poole 1979), *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon* (G. E. Rothenberg, London 1977) and *The Campaigns of Napoleon* (D. G. Chandler, London 1967). Interesting contemporary depictions of early light infantry dress may be found in *Bonaparte et son Armée après Marengo* (R. and J. Brunon, Salon-de-Provence, n.d.).



Notes sur les planches en couleur

A1 Uniforme vert original et casque en cuir des chasseurs. Tous les membres de cette unité mixte d'infanterie, de cavalerie et d'artillerie portaient cet uniforme, à l'exception des bottes de hussard pour la cavalerie et des ceinturons de cuir blanc pour l'artillerie. **A2** Chacune des six 'divisions' de la Garde Nationale de Paris comprenait une compagnie de chasseurs. **A3** Le 14e Léger continua de porter pendant un certain temps l'uniforme de l'ancienne Légion Noire; notez le 'chapeau à la Henri IV'.

B1 Le mirliton et la manchette à quatre boutons sont des caractéristiques du régiment. **B2** Le modèle original du shako était doté d'un plumet rigide et non retombant sur le côté. Les manchettes en pointe étaient une caractéristique du régiment. **B3** On discerne un grand nombre de détails non-réglementaires sur cette figure provenant d'une gravure de l'époque: disposition des décorations sur le shako, emplacement des boutons, forme de la manchette et détails du gilet et de la culotte.

C1 Notez les pattes de parement jaunes peu communes, ainsi que le rabat passepoilé sur le devant de la culotte. Ce régiment se distingua tout particulièrement à Marengo et Ulm. **C2** L'uniforme à parements verts fut probablement porté entre 1805 et 1808. **C3** Uniforme porté à Corfou; notez le shako particulier au régiment à 'aile' attachée. **C4** Le shako à l'ancienne mode est porté ici avec la tenue de ville.

D1 Le bicorne et le ceinturon de cuir vert caractérisent la tenue des officiers. **D2** Le colback à la hussarde fut adopté par certaines compagnies de voltigeurs et de carabiniers. **D3** Notez les insignes de chef de bataillon—plumet et pattes d'épaulettes en or. Ce régiment se couvrit de gloire au pont d'Elchingen. **D4** Apres un dessin d'Otto reproduisant un bonnet de carabinier peu usuel avec un écusson arrière rouge à croix bleue, entouré de dentelle d'argent.

E1 Magnifique tenue de cérémonie à la polonaise portée par le tambour-major de cette unité. **E2** Le costume oriental fut adopté par les musiciens noirs ou arabes de certaines fanfares de régiment. Cet homme tient un chapeau chinois. **E3** La couleur bleu ciel distinguait les musiciens du 27e Léger.

F1 Exemple typique d'uniforme de sapeur; le tromblon adopté au lieu de la carabine habituelle constitue cependant une nouveauté. **F2** Les cantinières portaient une version assez libre de l'uniforme de leur régiment. **F3** Si l'on en juge par les illustrations contemporaines, ce régiment, célèbre pour son esprit de corps arrogant, semble avoir, à un moment donné, adopté la moustache et une petite barbe.

G1 Ce personnage porte, dans l'ensemble, l'uniforme de carabinier avec la hallebarde, les pistolets et chevrons d'argent indiquant son affectation spéciale. **G2** Chaque compagnie possédait un fanion porté par un sous-officier; ces fanions pouvaient être de types extrêmement variés. Celui-ci semble avoir appartenu à la compagnie de carabiniers du 8e Léger. **G3** En dépit du règlement, les cornets ne se trouvaient pas seulement dans les compagnies de voltigeurs.

H1 A l'exception des manchettes de type plus ancien, cet uniforme est conforme au règlement de 1812. **H2** A l'exception des décorations de shako propres au régiment, cet uniforme de voltigeur est conforme au règlement en vigueur à partir de 1812. Les deux bretelles constituent un anachronisme, mais proviennent d'illustrations de l'époque. **H3** La couleur et le passepoil de l'uniforme sont particuliers au régiment, quoique la coupe soit conforme au règlement de 1812. **H4** Tenue de campagne typique; la capote différait grandement du point de vue du colori exact et des détails de la coupe.

Farbtafeln

A1 Original grüne *Chasseur*-Uniform und Lederhelm. Diese gemischte Einheit aus Infanterie, Kavallerie und Artillerie trug diese Uniform, mit Ausnahme der Husarenstiefel für Kavallerie und weissen Ledergürteln für Artillerie. **A2** Jede der sechs 'Divisionen' der Pariser Nationalgarde hatte eine *Chasseur*-Kompanie. **A3** Der *14e Léger* behielt die Uniform der alten *Légion Noire* eine zeitland bei; beachten Sie den '*Chapeau à Henri IV*'.

B1 Die Flügelmütze und die Manschetten mit vier Knöpfen sind für das Regiment typisch. **B2** Dieses Tschako-Originalmodell hatte eine senkrechte (nicht herunterhängende) Feder. Eigentümlich bei diesem Regiment waren die spitzen Manschetten. **B3** Diese Figur weist viele unreguläre Eigenschaften auf, die einem zeitgenössischen Gemälde entnommen sind: das Arrangement der Tschako-Dekoration, die Anordnung der Knöpfe, die Form der Manschetten und Details an Jacke und Hose.

C1 Beachten Sie die aussergewöhnlichen, gelben Manschettenabzeitchen und die Biese vorn an der Hose. Dieses Regiment hat sich besonders bei Marengo und Ulm ausgezeichnet. **C2** Die grün besetzte Uniform wurde vermutlich von 1805 bis 1808 getragen. **C3** In Korfu getragene Uniform. Beachten Sie den besonderen Regimentstschako mit 'Flügel'. **C4** Hier ein alter Tschako mit Strassenanzug.

D1 Der bicorne Hut und das grüne, Degenkoppel sind für die Offiziersuniform typisch. **D2** Einige *Voltigeur*- und *Carabinier*-Kompanien bevorzugten den husarenähnlichen *Kolpak*. **D3** Beachten Sie die Auszeichnungen für höhere Ränge: Feder und goldene Epaulettenbänder. Dieses Regiment errang seinen Ruhm bei der Brücke von Elchingen. **D4** Nach einem Gemälde von Otto. Ungewöhnlich ist die *Carabinier*-Mütze mit rotem Besatz hinten, auf dem ein blaues Kreuz ist und der mit Silberspitze eingefasst ist.

E1 Faszinierende Uniform in polnischem Stil, die vom Tambourmajor dieser Einheit bevorzugt wurde. **E2** Farbige oder arabische Musiker einiger Regimentskapellen trugen orientalische Uniformen. Dieser Mann trägt den Schellenbaum. **E3** Die Musiker des *27e Léger* trugen himmelblau.

F1 Typisches Beispiel einer *Sapeur*-Uniform, obwohl dieser Mann anstelle des üblichen Karabiners wine Donnerbüchse trägt. **F2** Die *cantinières* trugen aus dem Regiment frei zusammengewürfelte Uniformen. **F3** Dieses Regiment, das für seinen arroganten Korpsgeist bekannt ist, trug gemäss zeitgenössischer Zeichnungen eine zeitlang kleine Bärte.

G1 Dieser Mann trägt eine *Carabinier*-Uniform mit Hellebarde, Pistolen und silbernen Winkeln, die seinen Spezialrang zeigen. **G2** Jede Kompanie hatte eine Winkerflagge, die ein Unteroffizier trug. Die Flaggen waren sehr verschieden. Diese hier gehörte anscheinend der *Carabinier*-Kompanie des *8e Léger*. **G3** Trotz Vorschriften gab es Hornisten nicht nur in *Voltigeur*-Kompanien.

H1 Diese Uniform entspricht den Vorschriften von 1812 und hat ausserdem noch frühere, gemusterte Manschetten. **H2** Abgesehen von den regimentseigenen Tschako-Verzierungen ist dies die reguläre *Voltigeur*-Uniform ab 1812. Die beiden Ausrüstungsgürtel sind zwar anachronistisch, stammen aber von zeitgenössischen Bildern. **H3** Eigentümlich für dieses Regiment sind die Farben und Biesen der Uniform, obwohl der Schnitt den Vorschriften von 1812 entspricht. **H4** Typische Feldzuguniform; der Mantel hatte ganz andere Farben und Designdetails.

Continued from back cover

160 Nap's Guard Infantry (2)
44 Nap's German Allies (1)
43 Nap's German Allies (2)
90 Nap's German Allies (3)
106 Nap's German Allies (4)
122 Nap's German Allies (5)
199 Nap's Specialist Troops
211 Nap's Overseas Army
227 Nap's Sea Soldiers
88 Nap's Italian Troops
176 Austrian Army (1): Infantry
181 Austrian Army (2): Cavalry
223 Austrian Specialist Troops
152 Prussian Line Infantry
149 Prussian Light Infantry
192 Prussian Reserve & Irregulars
162 Prussian Cavalry 1792-1807
172 Prussian Cavalry 1807-15
185 Russian Army (1): Infantry
189 Russian Army (2): Cavalry
84 Wellington's Generals
114 Wellington's Infantry (1)
119 Wellington's Infantry (2)
253 Wellington's Highlanders
126 Wellington's Light Cavalry
130 Wellington's Heavy Cavalry
204 Wellington's Specialist Troops
167 Brunswick Troops 1809-15
98 Dutch-Belgian Troops
206 Hanoverian Army 1792-1816
226 The American War 1812-14
96 Artillery Equipments
77 Flags of the Nap Wars (1)
78 Flags of the Nap Wars (2)
115 Flags of the Nap Wars (3)

19TH CENTURY

232 Bolivar and San Martin
281 US Dragoons 1833-35
173 Alamo & Texan War 1835-6
56 Mexican-American War 1846-8
272 The Mexican Adventure 1861-67
63 American-Indian Wars 1860-90
170 American Civil War Armies:
(1): Confederate
177 (2): Union
179 (3): Staff, Specialists, Maritime
190 (4): State Troops
207 (5): Volunteer Militia
37 Army of Northern Virginia
38 Army of the Potomac
252 Flags of the American Civil War
(1): Confederate
258 (2): Union
265 (3): State & Volunteer
163 American Plains Indians
186 The Apaches
168 US Cavalry 1850-90
275 The Taiping Rebellion 1851-66
241 Russian Army of the Crimean War
193 British Army on Campaign
(1): 1816-1853
196 (2): The Crimea 1854-56
198 (3): 1857-81
201 (4): 1882-1902
212 Victoria's Enemies
(1): Southern Africa
215 (2): Northern Africa
219 (3): India
224 (4): Asia
249 Canadian Campaigns 1860-70
67 The Indian Mutiny
268 British Troops in the
Indian Mutiny 1857-59
91 Bengal Cavalry Regiments
92 Indian Infantry Regiments
233 French Army 1870-71 (1)
237 French Army 1870-71 (2)
277 The Russo-Turkish War 1877
57 The Zulu War
59 Sudan Campaigns 1881-98
230 US Army 1890-1920
95 The Boxer Rebellion

THE WORLD WARS

80 The German Army 1914-18
81 The British Army 1914-18
245 British Territorial Units 1914-18
269 The Ottoman Army 1914-18
208 Lawrence and the Arab Revolts
182 British Battle Insignia:
(1) 1914-18
187 (2) 1939-45
74 The Spanish Civil War
117 The Polish Army 1939-45
112 British Battledress 1937-61
120 Allied Commanders of WW2
225 The Royal Air Force
70 US Army 1941-45
216 The Red Army 1941-45
246 The Romanian Army
220 The SA 1921-45
24 The Panzer Divisions
266 The Allgemeine SS
34 The Waffen SS
229 Luftwaffe Field Divisions
124 German Commanders of WW2
213 German MP Units
139 German Airborne Troops
131 Germany's E. Front Allies
103 Germany's Spanish Volunteers
147 Wehrmacht Foreign Volunteers
254 Wehrmacht Auxiliary Forces
238 Allied Foreign Volunteers
142 Partisan Warfare 1941-45
169 Resistance Warfare 1940-45
282 Axis Forces in Yugoslavia 1941-45
270 Flags of the Third Reich
(1) Wehrmacht
274 (2) Waffen-SS
278 (3) Party & Police Units

MODERN WARFARE

132 Malayan Campaign 1948-60
174 The Korean War 1950-53
116 The Special Air Service
156 The Royal Marines 1956-84
133 Battle for the Falklands
(1): Land Forces
134 (2): Naval Forces
135 (3): Air Forces
250 Argentine Forces in the Falklands
127 Israeli Army 1948-73
128 Arab Armies (1): 1948-73
194 Arab Armies (2): 1973-88
165 Armies in Lebanon 1982-84
104 Vietnam War Armies 1962-75
143 Vietnam War Armies (2)
209 War in Cambodia 1970-75
217 War in Laos 1960-75
183 Modern African Wars
(1): Rhodesia 1965-80
202 (2): Angola & Mozambique
242 (3): South-West Africa
159 Grenada 1983
178 Russia's War in Afghanistan
221 Central American Wars

GENERAL

65 The Royal Navy
107 British Infantry, Equipts (1)
108 British Infantry, Equipts (2)
138 British Cavalry Equipts
72 The Northwest Frontier
214 US Infantry Equipts
205 US Army Combat Equipts
234 German Combat Equipts
157 Flak Jackets
123 Australian Army 1899-1975
164 Canadian Army at War
161 Spanish Foreign Legion
197 Royal Canadian Mounted Police

MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES

An unrivalled source of information on the uniforms, insignia and appearance of the world's fighting men of past and present. The *Men-at-Arms* titles cover subjects as diverse as the Imperial Roman army, the Napoleonic wars and German airborne troops in a popular 48-page format including some 40 photographs and diagrams, and eight full-colour plates.

COMPANION SERIES FROM OSPREY

ELITE

Detailed information on the uniforms and insignia of the world's most famous military forces. Each 64-page book contains some 50 photographs and diagrams, and 12 pages of full-colour artwork.

WARRIOR

Definitive analysis of the armour, weapons, tactics and motivation of the fighting men of history. Each 64-page book contains cutaways and exploded artwork of the warrior's weapons and armour.

NEW VANGUARD

Comprehensive histories of the design, development and operational use of the world's armoured vehiclesand artillery. Each 48-page book contains eight pages of full-colour artwork including a detailed cutaway of the vehicle's interior.

CAMPAIGN

Concise, authoritative accounts of decisive encounters in military history. Each 96-page book contains more than 90 illustrations including maps, orders of battle and colour plates, plus a series of three-dimensional battle maps that mark the critical stages of the campaign.

THE ANCIENT WORLD
218 Ancient Chinese Armies
109 Ancient Middle East
137 The Scythians 700-300 B.C.
69 Greek & Persian Wars 500-323 B.C.
148 Army of Alexander the Great
121 Carthaginian Wars
46 Roman Army:
(1): Caesar-Trajan
93 (2): Hadrian-Constantine
129 Rome's Enemies:
(1): Germanics & Dacians
158 (2): Gallic & British Celts
175 (3): Parthians & Sassanids
180 (4): Spain 218 B.C.-19 B.C.
243 (5): The Desert Frontier

THE MEDIEVAL WORLD
247 Romano-Byzantine Armies 4th-9th C.
154 Arthur & Anglo-Saxon Wars
255 Armies of the Muslim Conquest
125 Armies of Islam, 7th-11th C.
150 The Age of Charlemagne
89 Byzantine Armies 886-1118
85 Saxon, Viking & Norman
231 French Medieval Armies 1000-1300
75 Armies of the Crusades
171 Saladin & the Saracens
155 Knights of Christ
200 El Cid & Reconquista 1050-1492
105 The Mongols
222 The Age of Tamerlane
251 Medieval Chinese Armies
50 Medieval European Armies
151 Scots & Welsh Wars
94 The Swiss 1300-1500
136 Italian Armies 1300-1500
166 German Armies 1300-1500
195 Hungary & E. Europe 1000-1568
259 The Mamluks 1250-1517
140 Ottoman Turks 1300-1774
210 Venetian Empire 1200-1670
111 Armies of Crécy and Poitiers
144 Medieval Burgundy 1364-1477
113 Armies of Agincourt
145 Wars of the Roses
99 Medieval Heraldry

16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES
256 The Irish Wars 1485-1603
191 Henry VIII's Army
38 The Landsknechts
101 The Conquistadores
263 Mughul India 1504-1761
235 Gustavus Adolphus (1): Infantry
262 Gustavus Adolphus (2): Cavalry
14 English Civil War Armies
110 New Model Army 1645-60
203 Louis XIV's Army
267 The British Army 1660-1704
97 Marlborough's Army
86 Samurai Armies 1550-1615
184 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (1)
188 Polish Armies 1569-1696 (2)
279 The Border Reivers

18TH CENTURY
261 18th Century Highlanders
260 Peter the Great's Army (1): Infantry
264 Peter the Great's Army (2): Cavalry
118 Jacobite Rebellions
236 Frederick the Great (1)
240 Frederick the Great (2)
248 Frederick the Great (3)
271 Austrian Army 1740-80 (1)
276 Austrian Army 1740-80 (2)
280 Austrian Army 1740-80 (3)
48 Wolfe's Army
228 American Woodland Indians
39 British Army in N. America
244 French in Amer. War Ind.
273 General Washington's Army (1): 1775-1778

NAPOLEONIC PERIOD
257 Napoleon's Campaigns in Italy
79 Napoleon's Egyptian Campaign
87 Napoleon's Marshals
64 Nap's Cuirassiers & Carabiniers
55 Nap's Dragoons & Lancers
68 Nap's Line Chasseurs
76 Nap's Hussars
83 Nap's Guard Cavalry
141 Nap's Line Infantry
146 Nap's Light Infantry
153 Nap's Guard Infantry (1)

Title list continued on inside back cover

Please note that for space reasons abbreviated titles are given above; when ordering, please quote the title number, e.g 'W3 Viking Hersir', etc.

Avec annotations en francais sur les planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch übr Farbtafeln

ISBN 0-85045-521-9
9 780850 455212